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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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INSIDE

Storm Aftermath

Thousands of victims of Hurricane Ike settled in at shelters for what could be weeks.

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Suicide Blast

A suicide bomber blew herself up among police officers, killing at least 22 people.

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Encore

A concern for many TV viewers is whether Tina Fey will return to play Gov. Sarah Palin on "SNL."

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ON LAWSUIT VS FEDERALIZATION LAW

Risk for NMI-US relations

Christensen urges flexibility during transition

> *I am confident with the process that Congress undertook in passing [this] legislation. ...However, I cannot predict the effect of this lawsuit on the working relationship between federal agencies and the CNMI local government.*
>
> —U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna Christensen, chairwoman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs

By AGNES E. DONATO
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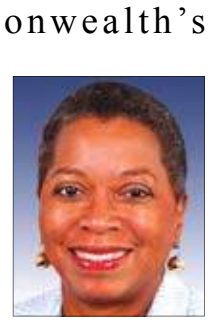
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial may be risking the Commonwealth's relationship with the U.S. government with his lawsuit over the pending federal takeover of local immigration, according to the U.S. lawmaker primarily in charge of legislation concerning the insular areas.


Christensen

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POLICE TRAINING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI Department of Public Safety's police academy cadets do physical exercises during their training at the grounds beside the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The police cadets began the training on Aug. 18. They are expected to complete the 16-week academy by the end of December 2008.

FEMA: Governor has to ask for help

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Protest rally vs CUC set today

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A spokeswoman from the Federal Emergency Management Agency clarified the CNMI's eligibility for assistance in dealing with the power situation under the Stafford Act yesterday.

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Fund holds breath on status of investments

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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EDITOR

Shock waves from Monday's upheaval in the American financial system could have dire implications for the NMI Retirement Fund's investment portfolio and could result

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A pedestrian walks near an electric market board in Tokyo, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008. AP

Asian stock markets plunge

By TOMOKO A. HOSAKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets tumbled Tuesday as the collapse of Lehman Brothers and takeover of Merrill Lynch spurred fears of a global financial crisis. European

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NOAA official gathering input on monument. **PAGE 2**
Judge allows ex-CUC chief to travel to US. **PAGE 3**

Hans Mickelson

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Local

NOAA official gathering input on monument

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is on island to gather input from community members and officials about the proposed national marine monument under consideration in the CNMI's northern waters.

Allen Tom, regional director of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, said he is spending the week fact finding and meeting with parties that are for and against the monument.

Environmentalists contend the monument would protect and preserve the 115,000 square miles of ocean that surround the islands of Maug, Uracus and Asuncion, while opponents say the plan would unnecessarily intrude on the CNMI's autonomy and bar any future fishing or mining in the area.

"In a process like this, there's always a lot of confusion," Tom said. "I'm the first of many people that will be out here."

Tom said a representative from the White House is scheduled to visit the CNMI at the end of October or beginning of November to further discuss and answer questions.

Last month President Bush called on federal agencies to conduct assessments on the CNMI's northern waters, as well as the two other areas, the Line Islands in the central Pacific and American Samoa, under consideration for a monument.

At a Rotary Club meeting yesterday, Tom said there are several reasons, including protecting the Mariana Trench, which are legitimate reasons to seek the designation. But, unlike the two other possible sites, there are many opponents of the plan in the CNMI, including government officials. Last week the House of Representatives passed a resolution opposing the plan, and Gov. Benigno Fitial has also stated his opposition.

Before the Rotary meeting, Tom came from the Governor's Office, where, he said, "We did get an earful. Three hours worth."

When a Rotary Club member asked how much influence the Governor and Legislature have in the final decision, Tom said he did not know what the determining factor would be but imagined the current preservation measures of the national resources would be a large factor.

"That seems to get lost in all these discussions," he added.

Tom said Hawaii's Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument, which President Bush designated in 2006 by using the Antiquities Act, should not be compared to the proposed monument in the CNMI.

"No sanctuaries or monuments are the same," he said. "There are nuances."

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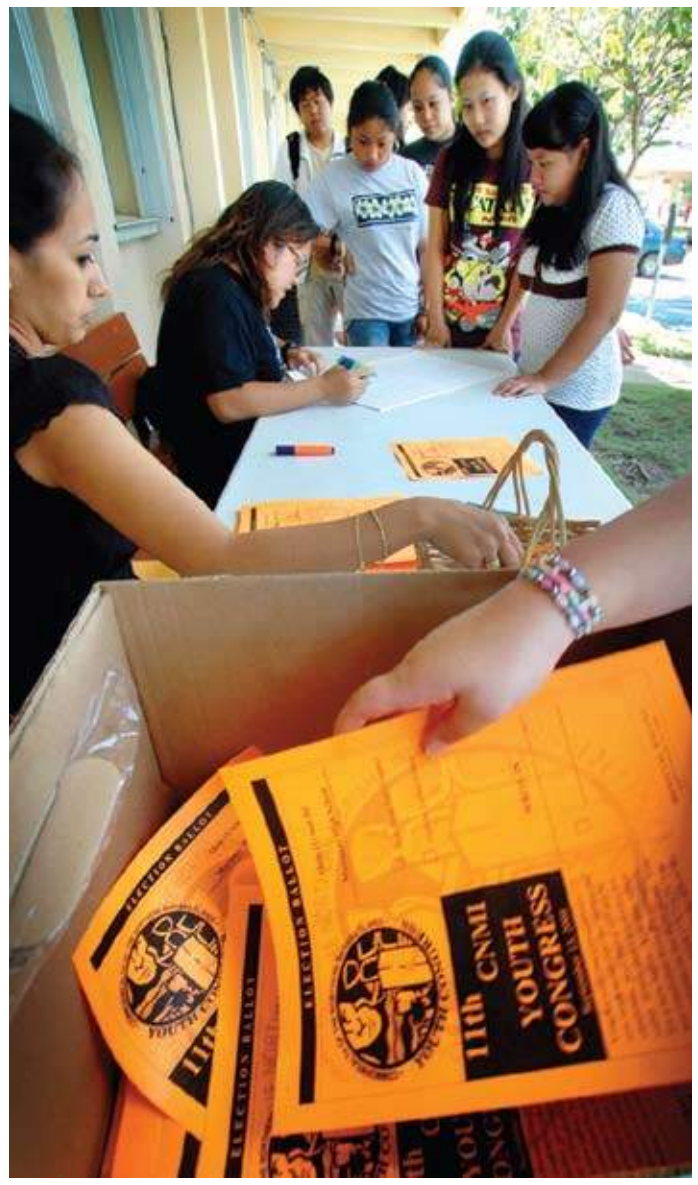
Small turnout during Youth Congress polls



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Marianas High School students cast their votes for the 11th CNMI Youth Congress election Monday.

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Youth Congress election on Monday was slow going for poll workers, with less than a third of registered voters coming out to cast their ballots.

According to a report from the Legislative Bureau, which conducted the elections, only 27 percent of the voters participated in this year's Youth Congress election. Out of the total 3,549 registered, only 975 voted.

The low turnout was noted in both the school and precinct levels. In the schools, 34 percent—844 out of 2,512—came out to vote. The precincts fared ever worse, with a turnout of 13 percent—131 out of 1,037 voters.

Glenna SP Reyes, deputy director at the Legislative Bureau, said the low turnout could be because of the late opening of schools this year and the observed lack of interest among the out-of-school voters.

Because schools opened late this year, there was little time to register freshmen students who would otherwise have been eligible to participate in the election. "[The LB staff members] were able to get a good number of students to register, but they did not have enough time to really reach out to all and to be able to provide sufficient information about the program to entice new youth voters to take part," Reyes said.

As for the precincts, she said, voter turnout has always been low and it continues to drop. She noted that two or three polling sites received no voters at all.

Azumi Ishida, a student at Marianas High School, said many students lack interest in the Youth Congress because they are not informed of its activities. Typically, students only hear about the Youth Congress during elections.

"What the candidates do once they're elected, we don't really know. They don't give us the details," Ishida said.

The Youth Congress, according to its enabling statute, was established "to provide a system that allows the youth to prepare to meet the challenges of the future and to make recommendations to the policy makers on youth programs."

The Youth Congress has three posts for Northern Marianas College, one for each participating public or private high school, and 10 for the election precincts.

CNMI residents who are 14 to 20 years are eligible to participate in the Youth Congress.

Judge allows ex-CUC chief to travel to US

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has allowed former Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s executive director Anthony C. Guerrero to travel off-island and visit his family in the U.S. mainland.

In addition, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson rescheduled Guerrero's sentencing hearing—currently set for Nov. 12, 2008, at 9am—to Feb. 27, 2009, at 9am.

Munson permitted Guerrero to travel out of the CNMI from Sept. 22, 2008, through Oct. 6, 2008, based on a stipulation entered by the former CUC official and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Guerrero

In granting the stipulation, the judge ordered that Guerrero's passport be returned to him to allow him to travel.

Munson directed Guerrero to provide the U.S. government a physical address for the places where he will stay as well as a cellular phone number where he may be reached at all times.

Lawyer Robert T. Torres, counsel for Guerrero, and assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, representing the U.S. government, signed the stipulation on Thursday.

The parties agreed to let Guerrero depart the CNMI on Sept. 22 and then return to the Commonwealth on Oct. 6.

Guerrero said he would visit his immediate family in Portland, Oregon; Boise, Idaho; and Washington state.

Guerrero has conferred with U.S. Probation Office's Melinda Brunson regarding his intended departure request.

The parties also requested to reschedule Guerrero's sentencing hearing to late February 2009 and set a deadline for the pre-sentence investigation report in early January 2009.

The parties said the jury trial for Guerrero's co-defendants will be continued to a date in January.

Guerrero and the U.S. maintained that sentencing after the jury trial date for the former CUC official would be appropriate as well as in the interests of justice.

In granting the stipulation, Munson reset to Jan. 9, 2009, the deadline for the pre-sentence investigation report that was originally set for Oct. 8, 2008.

Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos, and his wife Joaquina Villagomez Santos were indicted with conspiring to defraud CUC out of thousands of dollars through needless chemical purchases for CUC.

Guerrero signed a plea agreement and entered a guilty plea. Villagomez and the Santos couple pleaded not guilty.

Federal ombudsman's position still vacant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The position of federal ombudsman is still vacant even as James Benedetto on Monday officially started working at the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Benedetto, now an assistant U.S. attorney, said the federal ombudsman's position has yet to be advertised and that no one is assuming the position in an acting capacity.

He said the Office of Insular Affairs is expected to advertise the position very soon, go through the regular process, and pick somebody.

"Attorneys who are interested will apply and they'll do their thing," Benedetto said.

"Jeff Schorr [OIA field representative] is kind of like, if they [staff at ombudsman's office] need gas for the van or if they have a problem that they need to run by somebody, they go to Jeff. But there's no acting federal ombudsman," Benedetto said.

The federal ombudsman's office, located in Puerto Rico, Saipan, provides assistance to thousands of alien workers with labor and immigration complaints.

Benedetto was the second person to serve as federal ombudsman. The first was lawyer Pamela Brown, who later became the CNMI attorney general under the Babauta administration.

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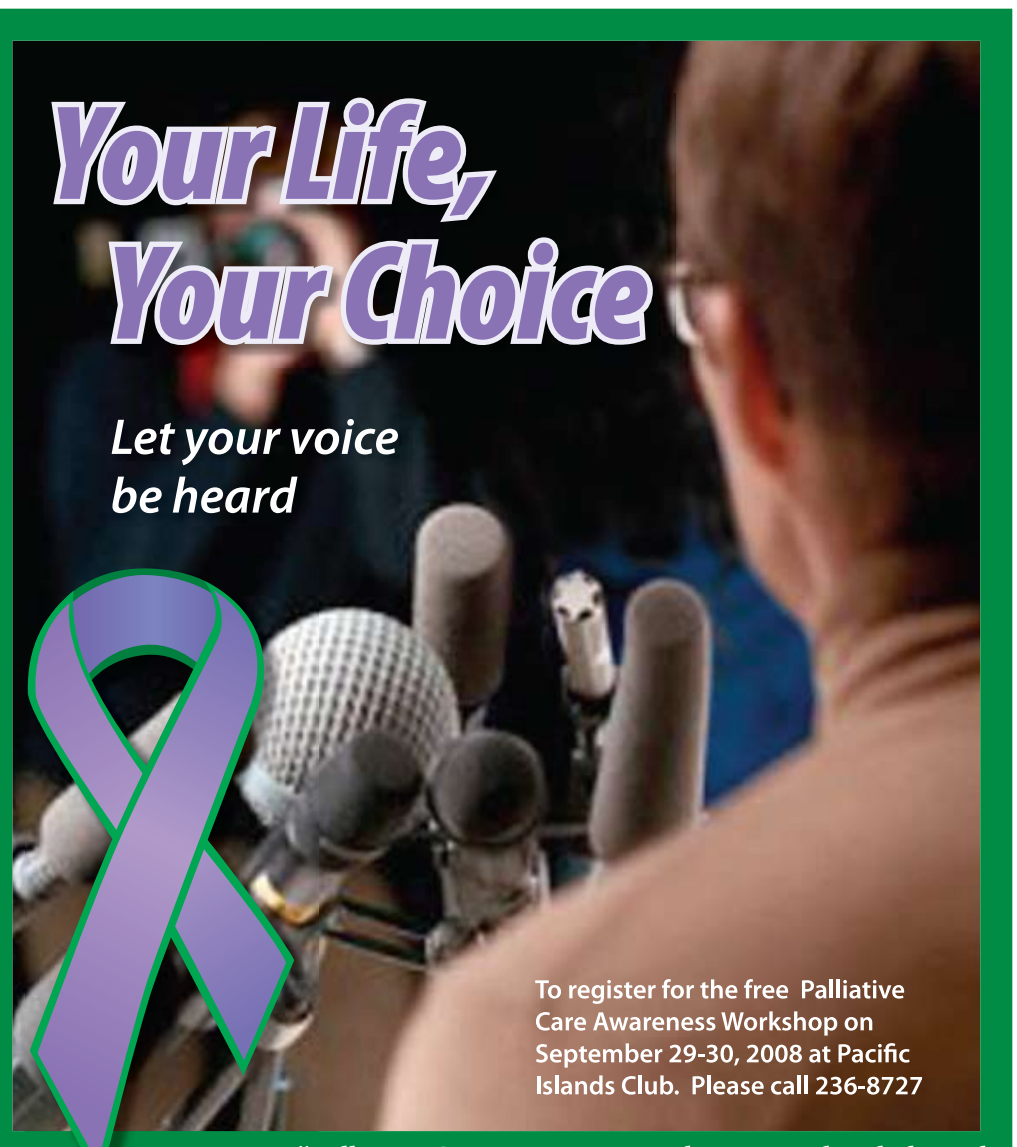
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Still no teacher representative on BOE

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite repeated requests, Gov. Benigno Fitial has failed to appoint a teacher representative to the Public School System's Board of Education.

Betty Miller, president of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers, said the BOE is supposed to make decisions based on the best choices for the students.

"We work with kids days in and day out so we know what the kids' needs are," she said.

Historically, the board has not had a teacher representative, but it is mandated in the Commonwealth Constitution, she said.

The board has written Gov. Benigno Fitial several times asking for an appointment, said board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita.

"The role of teachers' rep is mandated by [the] Constitution and provides the teachers a seat/voice at the board table and gives the elected board the benefit of teachers' perspective," she said in an e-mail.

Charles Reyes, spokesman for the Governor's Office, said Fitial is still waiting on advice from the Office of the Attorney General.

"We need to be sure the Constitution enjoins him to make such an appointment," he said in an e-mail "This may not be a constitutional mandate, according to one of the governor's advisers, and the administration is reluctant to involve itself in such PSS affairs. Although previous governors have made such appointments in the past, we are not sure it is a requirement of the office. The administration will be content to follow the counsel of our Office of the Attorney General."

The board is made up of five elected at large members, and according to the Constitution, "the governor shall appoint three nonvoting ex-officio members to the board of education: one member shall be a student attending a public school; one member shall be a representative of nonpublic schools; and one member selected by an exclusive bargaining representative of the teachers within the Department of Education."

In January, former teacher representative Ambrose Bennett filed a complaint against Fitial with the Attorney General's Office, citing the governor's failure to appoint a representative to the board.

FUND

From Page 1

in—at a minimum—tens of thousands of dollars in losses.

Already, the meltdown has wiped out an estimated $700 billion from retirement plans, government pension funds and other investment portfolios nationwide, according to an Associated Press report.

At the moment, though, the Fund is still awaiting word from its money managers to get a clearer picture of what impact the meltdown will have on its investments.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon said they are in constant communication with the Fund's money managers, who should have the numbers before Friday.

"Right now, we're polling our money managers, and we should know by the end of the week," he said yesterday.

The carnage began after investment bank Lehman Brothers filed the largest bankruptcy in American history Monday. A second storied bank, Merrill Lynch, was sold to Bank of America. Both are casualties of the financial crisis that began to bubble up from billions of dollars in rotten mortgage loans that have crippled the balance sheets of one bank after another.

Aguon acknowledged that some of the Fund's investments are with Lehman Brothers but said this constitutes a minute fraction of the Fund's total portfolio.

"I can't even tell you if we lost anything because the part of our investment that is in Lehman is in a division that may not have lost anything," he said.

When pressed for numbers, Aguon said the loss could amount to "less than $100,000."

According to the Fund's most recent financial figures, its investment portfolio totaled $449.57 million in May 2008.

Aguon pointed out that a loss is almost inevitable, considering that the entire stock market went down. The Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 500 points, its steepest point drop since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Aguon expressed confidence, though, that any loss in the Fund's portfolio could be mitigated by the good performance of its money managers.

"Our money managers usually beat the benchmarks, they usually beat it 90 percent at any given point. We're confident that our managers have not lost too much," he said.

He said the Fund's money managers are keeping the Fund updated on what's happening on Wall Street. "They're faxing us all the information, the effect of the drop on the S&P, etc."

The Fund has nine money managers—Atalanta, Stralem, Renaissance, Nicolas-Applegate, Fisher, Templeton, Richmond, Income Research, and JP Morgan—all supervised by Merrill Lynch.

There was no response as of press time to a follow-up e-mail interview with Aguon on the impact of Merrill Lynch's sale to Bank of America in its management of the Fund's investments.

Majority of the Fund's investments are in equities. The rest are spread out among fixed income instruments: Core, Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, and alternative investments. ***(With AP)***

ASIAN

From Page 1

markets, which fell sharply Monday, extended losses in early trading.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index sank nearly 5 percent to 11,609.72—its lowest close since July 2005. Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng Index shed 5.4 percent. Both markets—Asia's two biggest—had been closed for holidays on Monday, when news first broke about the turmoil on Wall Street that has dramatically changed its landscape.

Across Asia, markets were all deep in the red. South Korea's main index declined 6.1 percent, while Taiwan's benchmark was off 4.9 percent and China's Shanghai index sank 4.6 percent.

To ensure liquidity, Japan's central bank on Tuesday injected of 2.5 trillion yen, or $24 billion, into money markets and issued a statement vowing to take measures to maintain stability in the country's financial markets. Cabinet ministers, along with the central bank chief, were also holding an emergency meeting.

"The Bank of Japan will carefully monitor recent situations surrounding the U.S. financial institutions and their influences, and will continue to strive to ensure smooth settlement of funds and maintain stability in financial markets through measures such as appropriate money market operations," Gov. Masaaki Shirakawa said.

The dollar also took a hit, falling to 103.83 yen Tuesday afternoon in Asia from mid-107 yen levels before the weekend.

In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100 was down 1.5 percent and France's CAC-40 slid 1.4 percent. Both markets had fallen sharply Monday.

The Japanese unit of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. requested bankruptcy protection at a Tokyo court after the 158-year-old firm filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in New York on Monday.

The storied New York investment bank, crippled by $60 billion in soured real-estate holdings, was unable to find an investment partner to throw it a lifeline despite a flurry of last-minute negotiations over the weekend.

Investors were further shaken up by equally stunning news that Merrill Lynch, one of the world's most famous brokerages, sought to avoid a similar fate with a $50 billion transaction to become part of Bank of America Corp.

The crisis appeared to be far from over. American Insurance Group, the world's largest insurer, was fighting for its survival after downgrades from major credit rating firms, adding pressure as AIG seeks billions of dollars to strengthen its balance sheet.

On Wall Street Monday, the Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 500 points, or 4.4 percent, to 10,917.51—its worst point drop since after the September 11, 2001, terror attacks.

FEMA

From Page 1

Meanwhile, a public demonstration seeking federal intervention in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is slated for today.

Kelly Hudson, a spokeswoman for FEMA, said the organization could not determine if resources were available until a governor made a request for assistance.

"At that time, FEMA will consider it on rather or not it applies," she said of the Stafford Act.

Last week, a spokeswoman from FEMA said the organization "would not be involved in this since this is not a Stafford Act related issue."

But Hudson, when asked to clarify if the CNMI's situation does fall under the Stafford Act, said that FEMA couldn't speculate without a request.

"We have no idea what the governor would ask for," she added.

The Stafford Act allows for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to request federal intervention during times of a major disaster. The Act gives FEMA the responsibility to coordinate various government and non-government agencies to provide relief.

The governor of the affected state must make the request stating that the magnitude of the disaster is beyond the capabilities of the local and state government.

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has insisted that the Commonwealth is eligible for assistance under the Act. He said that based upon his discussions with FEMA and Homeland Security officials in D.C., there is precedent for the request.

He said FEMA has provided emergency assistance to several non-natural disasters in the last few years, including the New York power outage in August 2003, and the Minnesota bridge collapse in August 2007.

Hudson said in the case of the bridge collapse, the government sought help after the local coroner was so overwhelmed with the number of deaths they could not handle it on their own. Officials were similarly overwhelmed in New York, she said. The shelters were overcrowded and medication for the elderly was going bad with the lack of power.

"Again, the governor said the local resources can't handle this," Hudson said.

Although, if a typhoon was to come in and sweep half the island away and the governor did not seek help, that might be a different story, she said.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the governor is always interested in help, but "when we looked into it we were told it was not available."

The CNMI Department of Finance, after contacting FEMA, was told it did not apply, and the Office of the Attorney General also read the Act and determined it did not apply, Reyes said.

"I think FEMA is caught in an uncomfortable position dealing with politics here," he said. "I can understand why they are really reluctant in becoming embroiled in the politics of our islands. Any person could see that."

Even if the Stafford Act does apply, it's irreverent, Reyes said, adding that since the emergency Aggreko generators were turned on last week, the island has had stable power.

"It's a moot point," he said. "We don't have the same type of emergency."

However, there is still a crisis, he said, and Fitial's declaration of a state of disaster emergency for CUC will continue to stand for legal reasons. Under the declaration, CUC was able to expedite the installation process of the generators.

During today's rally, participants will be requesting President Bush to declare a federal state of emergency on the failing power, water and wastewater of CUC under the Stafford Act. Protestors are also asking for an audit of funds expended by CUC in the last 10 years, and a federal court-appointed receivership for CUC until utilities are restored and CUC's financial situation is stabilized.

RISK

From Page 1

U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna Christensen, chairwoman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs and main sponsor of the bill that became the CNMI immigration law, said she is convinced the legislation will stand up in court. But she is not too sure about how the lawsuit would affect U.S. and CNMI relations.

"I am confident with the process that Congress undertook in passing legislation and with President Bush's signing of P.L. 110-229; these actions will be defended. However, I cannot predict the effect of this lawsuit on the working relationship between federal agencies and the CNMI local government," Christensen said in a statement yesterday.

The CNMI government said there is no surprise about Christensen's continued support for federalization. Yet the administration noted that the U.S. lawmaker's comment on the future of U.S.-CNMI ties "may need further clarification and amplification."

"We expect that our working relationship with the federal government would continue to be positive and similar to the relationships between U.S. state governments and the federal government even after a state, such as Alaska, files suit against the federal government," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

"I am sure the people of the CNMI and the 50 states might be very interested to know if any disparate treatment may arise from similar fact patterns, because this is not our understanding of the democratic principles underlying American government," he added.

Fitial named the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Labor as defendants in the lawsuit he filed Friday in a bid to stop the new immigration law from being implemented. The suit, now before a federal court in Washington, D.C., argues that the new immigration law threatens to cripple the local economy and violates the promises of self-government and economic development detailed in the CNMI's covenant with the United States.

"I am taking this action so that we can get the answer to an important legal question. We need to know whether the U.S. Congress can legislate in an area reserved for local self-government by our Covenant. The only way to get an answer to this legal question is to turn to the court," Fitial said in a statement.

Christensen in her statement noted that the U.S. Congress and the agencies tasked with federalizing the Commonwealth's immigration system see the importance of working with local leaders in preparation for the transition period.

"Over the past several months, since the enactment of P.L. 110-229, Congress has urged federal agencies to actively engage with CNMI leaders in preparation for the transition period which will usher in a new era of security and economic development to the CNMI," Christensen said.

"I am satisfied that the relevant federal agencies understand how important this transition will be for the people of the CNMI and they are working thoughtfully to ensure that the upcoming transition period is flexible enough to respond to concerns raised from CNMI residents and businesses," she added.

Christensen said she will continue to encourage federal agencies to provide the needed flexibility to the Commonwealth during the transition period.

Override eyed on veto vs CUC privatization

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Lawmakers are mulling whether to enact legislation privatizing the Commonwealth's power system over the governor's objections.

Rep. Victor Hocog, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said yesterday he will move to override the governor's veto of legislation that would have required the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to sell its power system to the highest bidder.

Although he admitted to not having seen the governor's reasons for disapproving the bill, Hocog said that an override is "imminent."

"This bill is very necessary. It will address the power problems for the long term," he said.

Hocog, who also leads the House Committee on Ways and Means, added that, with the government's dwindling resources, the Legislature cannot guarantee that it can find money for CUC the next time the utility comes asking for financial help. "We are having problems with the budget. Austerity measures have to be put in place. It would be very difficult for the Legislature to come up with money to subsidize CUC," he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed yesterday a bill requiring the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to privatize its power division, citing numerous deficiencies that he said would increase CUC's costs or would push the rates further up.

One lawmaker, however, has said she will not support any attempt to override the governor's veto. Rep. Tina Sablan, who opposed the bill when it was placed on the House floor for a vote, reiterated her objections.

Her main concern, she said, is the lack of a public comment period and the insufficient review conducted even within the Legislature before the bill was passed. A $250-million price tag, for instance, was proposed for the CUC's power system without any professional assessment.

"That figure came out of nowhere," Sablan said. "It started out as an arbitrary $500 million, based on little more than a guess. And then in a matter of minutes, during a conversation between legislators, became $250 million. That is hardly a responsible way to craft legislation for something as vitally important as the privatization of our utilities."

She also took issue with the structure of the governing board, which the legislation proposes to reinstate at CUC. "While I have become quite weary of the governor's abuses of power since he assumed control of CUC, I'm not sure that the answer to that would be a governing board that retains essentially the same structure—and likely the same deficiencies—as the last governing board that we had," she said.

To pass a bill over the governor's veto requires a two-thirds vote in each chamber.

PORT VISIT

The USS *Rentz* (FFG 46), a 453-foot guided missile frigate of the United States Navy and the 40th ship to be constructed in the Oliver Hazard Perry-class, with approximately 215 officers and crew, is seen docked at the Port of Saipan upon its arrival yesterday. This is the ship's first rest-and-recreation visit to Saipan and is scheduled to depart Saturday morning. The *Rentz* is homeported in San Diego, California.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rota prepares for typhoon season

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—Several years have passed since a typhoon hit the CNMI yet government officials here Tuesday got a lesson in how to brace this small island community for one in the future, along with warnings that a powerful storm could emerge at any time.

"We're the only region in the world where we can get a typhoon at any moment of the year," Chip Guard, meteorologist with the National Weather Service, told a conference of staff from government agencies like the Department of Public Safety, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. "The last couple of years have been fairly quiet, and they have been fairly active in the Atlantic."

Typhoons most often occur during the rainy season in the CNMI—August to December—and can devastate the islands with surges of ocean water that have the potential to level buildings, heavy rains and winds of up to 150 miles an hour.

The last major typhoon to hit the CNMI was Supertyphoon Chaba, which made landfall in 2004, causing an estimated at $18 million in damage and prompting President Bush to declare the region a major disaster area. Prior to Chaba, Supertyphoon Pongsona and Typhoon Chata'an both ravaged the island of Rota in 2002.

Coordination among government officials as a typhoon approaches, Guard said, is critical to ensuring islands in the CNMI are prepared and can recover quickly when it hits.

"It's important for the governor's office and the mayor and the people in charge to work together," Guard said.

Rota has some advantages over other Pacific Islands when preparing for a typhoon, Guard noted. For example, most of the buildings here are concrete rather than wooden, making them better equipped to withstand high winds. Moreover, the island's long-time residents have experience with typhoons and how to make it through them, a factor that can make all the difference.

"Rota is in better shape than most places because you don't get a lot of turnover in the local population," he said. "Folks here are used to it."

However, one weakness in Rota's defenses against major typhoons is the narrowness of its coral reefs. On Saipan, for example, Guard said the reefs provide a natural barrier against storm surges that break the waves far away from land yet Rota's reefs are close to the shore.

"Rota has some of the narrowest reefs in Micronesia," he said, adding that many casualties seen during a major storm stem from ocean surges.

The conference was part of a two-day event on Rota that is also slated to include talks on climate change issues, tsunamis and volcanic activity in the region.

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-08-2295

To: **Provide Local Public Relations and Media Services**

Closing Date: **September 26, 2008** Time: **3:00 p.m.** (Saipan Time)

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the MVA office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
a. July 29, 2008
b. August 1, 2008
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – CDA
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
1. Development Corporation Division
a. Status of Pending Items
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
a. Status of the DBD Funds
3. Admin. Matters/Personnel & Budget
a. Administration's Report
4. QC Program/Economic Dev. Activities
a. Ratification of Board Res. 2008-002
b. Compliance Issues
V. OLD BUSINESS
1. Pacific Gardenia Hotel – Update
2. Sunset Villa – Update
3. CUC
VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Alternative Energy
VII. OTHER MATTERS
1. Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference
2. IEDC Annual Conference – The Next Billion: Mobility, Flexibility, Agility, Livability
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

LAPD cops disappointed with Miura's stay order

4 to leave before hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four Los Angeles Police Department officers were disappointed upon arriving Monday night at the Saipan international airport after learning that the CNMI Supreme Court had granted Kazuyoshi Miura's request to hold off the Superior Court's order for his extradition to L.A. while his appeal is pending.

LAPD Cold Case Homicide Unit's Detective Rick Jackson and his partners—Detectives Richard Bengtson, Hope Young, and Officer Eri Poss—were met at the airport by Attorney General Matthew Gregory, assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr., press secretary Charles Reyes Jr., Department of Public Safety commissioner Santiago Tudela and other local officers.

Shortly after their arrival, the LAPD detectives conducted a press conference for waiting journalists, mostly from the Japanese media.

"We obviously just got off from the plane and just now found out that there's a stay granted. So we're disappointed but that's the way things go," Jackson said.

He said they would be leaving before Sept. 23, the date when the CNMI Supreme Court will hear Miura's appeal.

"We probably will head back in the next day or so…[and] return later when things are set up permanently and we can take Mr. Miura back to California. We don't have a lot to say tonight, especially now. We're tired obviously," the detective said.

Jackson said there are four of them because they need to have the right number of people to get some things done while on Saipan.

Warfield told *Saipan Tribune* he is also disappointed with what happened.

"It's quite expensive for the four of them to come here. It's a lot of travel time for them. But that's the way things go sometimes. So they knew that there was a possibility that this might happen. But, at the same time, they still have their jobs to do," Warfield said.

With respect to the Supreme Court stay ruling, the prosecutor said they are hoping that, if the high court does decide to hear the case, it would be done quickly.

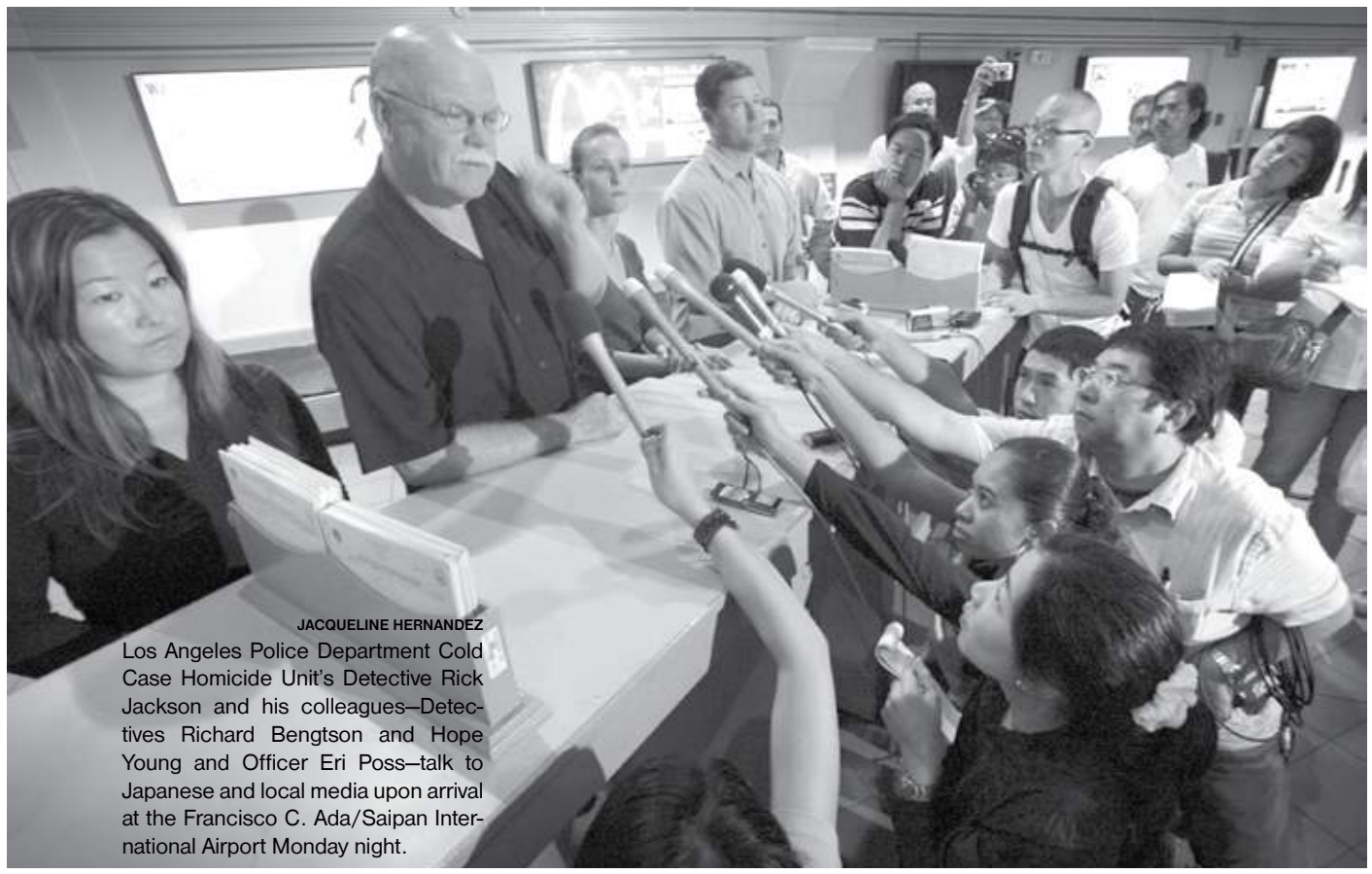
"I don't think a week is necessary for these issues to be determined," said Warfield, adding that the Attorney General's Office will abide with the Supreme Court's decision.

"We will file our brief on Monday and be prepared for oral argument next Tuesday," he said.

On Friday, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Miura's petition for habeas corpus and ordered his extradition to L.A.

These decisions prompted William M. Fitzgerald, one of Miura's three lawyers on Saipan, to file that day with the CNMI Supreme Court an emergency motion for a stay of extradition and removal, pending their appeal.

On Monday afternoon, chief justice Miguel S. Demapan granted the stay request and set the arguments for Sept. 23 at 2pm.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles Police Department Cold Case Homicide Unit's Detective Rick Jackson and his colleagues—Detectives Richard Bengtson and Hope Young and Officer Eri Poss—talk to Japanese and local media upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Monday night.

Rota farmers eye long-term crops to compete

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—Ahead of the pending military buildup on Guam and the increased demand for locally grown food many farmers expect it to spur, farmers here are working to carve a niche for themselves in the produce market by growing crops that take longer to raise than varieties grown on Tinian or Saipan, a strategy that could help their farms stay competitive in the years to come.

"That's the only way we can get our agriculture up and going," said Felix Calvo, a staff member with Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Education and Extension Services program in an interview Tuesday at NMC's Rota Campus. "We're kind of positioning our farmers to get into staple crops."

Saipan and Tinian have better access than Rota to markets where they can sell crops, thereby giving their farmers added incentive to raise vegetables they can harvest quickly, Calvo noted. While Rota's farmers face some serious hardships getting their products off of the island, the marketing practices of their counterparts elsewhere in the CNMI, however, have opened up an opportunity for them to sell produce that requires more time in the ground before it can be plucked and brought to supermarket shelves, in particular the island's celebrated sweet potatoes and its taro.

"We cannot compete with Saipan and Tinian if we grow the same things," said Calvo. "We have a lot of the same conditions. We have the same labor laws. So instead, we're trying to fill the demand for other supplies."

Rota is already doing a brisk trade in a host of agriculture products that take longer periods to raise. According to statistics from the Department of Commerce branch here on the island, for example, Rota exported 3,477 pounds of white sweet potatoes to Guam in July 2008 alone and 2,601 pounds of red sweet potatoes. Meanwhile, exports of taro to Guam came in at 280 pounds for July.

Agricultural export levels might be higher on Rota, Calvo noted, were it not for the tricky task of getting produce off of the island. Cargo ships arrive only twice a month to Rota, he said, while the primary air cargo carrier between here and Guam, Freedom Air, has limited space available to farmers because of its agreement to transport mail for the local post office. Rota also lacks some of the key infrastructure it needs for farmers and ranchers to market their products, such as a slaughterhouse. Ranchers currently must sell their livestock alive rather than have it butchered to fetch a higher price.

To aid the efforts of Rota's farmers, however, NMC CREES has begun a host of projects to test various strains of sweet potatoes, taro and other vegetable to determine which of them will grow best on the island. Moreover, the college last month held a taste test on the island to research whether any of the variety's grown through the research is more appealing to customers, Calvo said.

Meanwhile, officials here have identified at least one major challenge to growers that they are now working to address, the presence of the Cuban slugs, an invasive species that can damage crops.

"They're like locusts," Calvo said of the species, uncovered roughly a year ago. Now, he added, local authorities are working to prevent the slugs from harming local farms and have tightened their inspections of imports to the island to block other invasive species like the Rhinoceros beetle, from reaching Rota.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement V)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00 - $ 65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008, 2008** Closing Date: **October 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years work experience and must hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; **OR** Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years related work experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-073-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement III)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,00.00-$65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008** Closing Date: **October 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS – OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Master's degree in Education Administration or related areas, plus at least five (5) years of progressively responsible teaching or education administration experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Bishop Camacho turns 75; to resign post

Tomorrow, Sept. 18, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa will celebrate the life and times of Bishop Tomas A. Camacho on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

A diocesan-wide Thanksgiving Mass is set for 5pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. Homilist for the Mass is the Archbishop of Manila, His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal B. Rosales. Members of the clergy from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam will be in attendance. All parochial and ministry teams will also be in attendance and joined by various civic and public leaders. Everyone is invited to participate in this historic event.

Bishop Camacho, the first bishop of and from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has served the public for over 23 years as the head of the Roman Catholic Church in the CNMI.

Bishop Camacho has seen the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa grow to become what is now 13 parishes spread across the CNMI since taking over the post in January 1985.

Canon law requires that he submits his letter of resignation to Pope Benedict XVI upon reaching the age of 75. Bishop Camacho will follow this requirement and wait for the Vatican's decision as to whether or not the resignation will be accepted. He will continue to serve in his current capacity until a new bishop is appointed.

Camacho

Any interim wait will provide for the Vatican's needs in confirming a suitable replacement.

Other events have been lined up to celebrate and thank Bishop Camacho for his tenure and contribution to all the faithful in the Commonwealth.

His leadership steered a very young Diocese for a very young Commonwealth and he has been and continues to be a source of inspiration for many people. Author Jess R.A. Sonoda provides insights into the bishop's journey from a young boy raising goats on a farm to being the Vatican's pick as bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in the biography *From Goatherd to Shepherd*. The book will be launched tomorrow morning at the Diocesan Curia. It will be on sale to all interested individuals.

With the book launching is the opening of a gallery displaying religious collectibles dating from pre-World War II to more recent years. To close out the day, a dinner fundraiser will be held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall from 6pm to 9pm. Proceeds from the dinner tickets will go to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

As he awaits his impending leave, Bishop Camacho says to the people of the Commonwealth: "I thank you, the people of God in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, for your unconditional love and support during our 23-year journey toward the kingdom. I thank you for allowing me to share the happy and memorable moments of your life. You have been my inspiration, consolation and advocate during confusing, difficult and challenging times. *Si yu'os ma'ase."*

For information on any of the events and dinner accommodations, contact the Mount Carmel Rectory at 234-3000.

Preps for class suit vs bond underway

More than 50 people participated in the meeting held last Sept. 13 at the American Memorial Park in relation to the planned class action lawsuit to pursue collection of unpaid administrative orders.

Saturday's meeting was a follow up to a previous one where it was decided that a lawsuit is the best course of action for alien workers who have been awarded damages for unpaid wages but have yet to collect these monies.

There were Filipinos, Bangladeshis and Chinese in attendance at the meeting. Lawyer Robert Myers Jr. and United Workers Movement, NMI represented by Irene Tantiado, Rabby Syed and Ronnie Doca organized the meeting.

The highlights of the discussion were:

a) Reiteration of cutoff for submission of copies of administrative orders, which is Sept. 30.

b) Interested parties should sign a lawyer/client agreement and pay their share of the filing fee and documentation of $12. Copies of the agreement were distributed during the meeting. Copies of the agreement in English and Chinese versions are also available at the front desk of Summer Holiday Hotel in Garapan or from Irene. Official receipts are issued for the $12 payment.

c) Off-island or those leaving the island can still join but are required to provide a notarized power of attorney.

d) To make sure that the unpaid administrative orders are issued within six years.

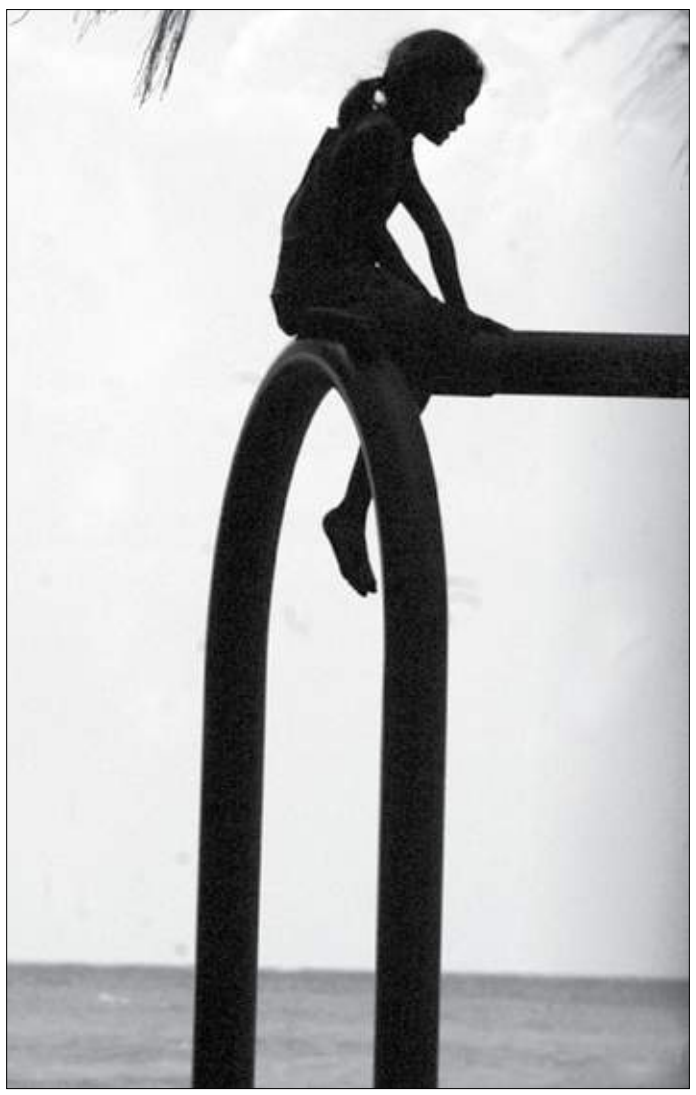
e) United Workers Movement will write a letter to the CNMI Department of Labor under the Freedom of Information Act to secure copies of surety bonds for people joining the class suit. Because of this, we are requesting interested parties to sign and submit copies of their administrative orders as early as possible.

f) Workers owed damages or unpaid wages may join regardless of whether the employer still exists or not. For those whose employers are already gone, they should be covered by the surety bond.

"This is the first time that a class action will be filed to pursue unpaid wages. We are asking everyone who are holding an unpaid administrative order to join," said Tantiado.

Workers who are awarded damages for unpaid wages are supposed to collect these from their employers or the bonding companies. However, the Labor Department has refused to enforce its administrative orders, saying that workers should pursue these claims in small claims court.

For questions, email Tantiado at irenebdi@yahoo.com or text at 2857717. ***(PR)***



CHILD AT PLAY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A child spends her Saturday afternoon playing at the Micro Beach playground.

TV Nara, TV Mie film on Saipan

TV Nara and TV Mie recently filmed a show called "The Talent Agency" on Saipan. Twenty-three people were part of the crew, including seven female contestants that hope to become famous hosts in a comedy show in the future. The famous comedian group "TIM" hosted. They formed a talent agency in the program to train the female idols to become talented idols.

The Japanese program is broadcast in 121,959 households with a primary audience of males and females in their 20s and 30s. The show is broadcast weekly on Wednesday.

The show featuring Saipan will air on Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Oct. 10. The estimated advertising value to the islands is $588,679. During their four-day shoot on Saipan they filmed at various tourist attractions.

"We continue to be appreciative of the media visits to the CNMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With our limited marketing budget we rely heavily on media outlets to showcase our islands in our top travel markets." ***(MVA)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/6 Sat	9/4 Thu	9/4 Thu	8/26 Tue	8/30 Sat	9/12 Fri	9/8 Mon	9/7 Sun	9/2 Tue	8/24 Sun	9/8 Mon	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/13 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/11 Thu	9/9 Tue	9/6 Sat	9/19 Fri	9/15 Mon	9/14 Sun	9/9 Tue	9/7 Sun	9/15 Mon	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	9/20 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/18 Thu	9/16 Tue	9/13 Sat	9/26 Fri	9/22 Mon	9/21 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/22 Mon	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue
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MELL SENOKO	011E	10/4 Sat	10/2 Thu	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/27 Sat	10/10 Fri	10/6 Mon	10/5 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	10/6 Mon	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	016E	10/11 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/4 Sat	10/17 Fri	10/13 Mon	10/12 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/13 Mon	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/21 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/20 Sat	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	SKIP	9/25 Thu	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/5 Sun	10/8 Wed
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/27 Sat	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/30 Tue	10/2 Thu	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/12 Sun	10/15 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	10/4 Sat	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	SKIP	10/9 Thu	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/23 Thu	10/21 Tue	10/19 Sun	10/22 Wed
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MELL SENOKO	011E	10/18 Sat	10/19 Sun	10/19 Sun	SKIP	10/23 Thu	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/28 Tue	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/6 Thu	11/25 Tue	11/23 Sun	11/5 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	016E	10/25 Sat	10/26 Sun	10/26 Sun	10/28 Tue	10/30 Thu	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/4 Tue	11/7 Fri	11/8 Sat	11/13 Thu	12/2 Tue	11/30 Sun	11/12 Wed

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC-CREES's Dr. Allan Sabaldica discusses livestock opportunities with local ranchers at a recent workshop on Saipan.

Livestock workshop benefits farmers

In a recent workshop hosted by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research and Extension Service, farmers on Saipan were introduced to innovative farming methods as well as grant opportunities to overcome livestock challenges.

Led by Dr. Allan Sabaldica from the NMC-CREES Tinian office, the "Livestock Opportunities" workshop held on Saipan focused on introducing local farmers and ranchers to low maintenance, high output animal holdings.

Dr. Sabaldica illustrated some creative animal housings made from old school buses or scrap wood, and also introduced homemade animal feeders. It was stressed that ranchers came up with theideas to build these low cost housing due to economic hardships in the CNMI which do not allow for more sophisticated devices.

At the same time, the ranchers were introduced to grants available from Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education for unique ideas to overcome challenges in farming and ranching in the CNMI. Dr. Sabaldica invited the ranchers to submit grant proposals and offered technical advice and assistance in writing the grants.

According to its website, WSARE has funded 46 grant projects worth nearly $2.5 million in the last approval cycle. Grants are available to farmers, ranchers, students, and researchers in rural areas. Deadline for submission of proposals is December 5, 2008. Grant applications can be downloaded from http://wsare.usu.edu/news/pdf/WS4_2008_151347.pdf.

During the workshop, the ranchers pointed out that to be successful—even on a small scale—they would have to set up a cooperative that will help them lower prices for feeds through the ability to buy in bulk and to market their products. There is demand for local meat and dairy products. However, the ranchers pointed out the n! on existence of a slaughter house and USDA meat inspectors which preven t them from building up a sustainable industry. CNMI's ranchers may otherwise be able to produce enough meat to supply the whole CNMI with their products. There would even be enough left for export, especially to Guam where the population is expected to increase given the planned military build-up there.

Dr. Sabaldica noted that if the ranchers can set up their cooperative, NMC-CREES will be able to support them with marketing and promotion. He mentioned that the CNMI had a healthy meat and dairy industry until the early 80's and once was one of the main exporters in the region.

For more information about the Livestock Improvement Program, ranchers and farmers can contact Dr. Sabaldica at the NMC-CREES Tinian site via phone at (670) 433-2576 or email allans@nmcnet.edu.

The same workshop was conducted on Sept. 12 at the NMC Campus on Rota and another is planned for Sept. 16 at the NMC Campus on Tinian. ***(NMC-CREES)***

US withholds Compact funds for Chuuk

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (Kaselehlie Press/PIR)—In a letter dated Aug. 1 this year, Tom Bussanich, Director of the Division of Budget and Grants Management for the US Office of Insular Affairs notified Fabian Nimea, Director of FSM's Office of Statististics, Budget, and Overseas Coordination, that Compact funds for Chuuk State would be withheld beginning Aug. 4.

The three sectors affected by the notice are Private Sector Development, Environment, and Public Sector Capacity building.

The Health and Education sectors are not affected by OIA's action.

Bussanich outlined a process for exemption from the suspension when funds from the Public Sector Capacity Building sector grant are required to support those two sectors.

According to the letter, the widely publicized July 11, 2008 termination of Gillian Doone as Chuuk's Director of the Department of Administrative Services by Governor Wesley Simina prompted OIA's action. The letter said that since the termination of Doone the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) has not received a plan from either the Chuuk State Government or the FSM National Government on how proper financial and management oversight will be restored.

President Mori's Chief of Staff, Kasio E. Mida said that it wasn't the firing of Doone in particular that caused the suspension but the lack of another qualified individual ready to take the position and a plan for proper financial and management oversight in Chuuk.

The Joint Economic Management Council (JEMCO), after its August 2007 meeting informed the FSM that JEMCO required the replacement of the "failed management regime in Chuuk". That action was taken "to ensure that the Compact program was not undermined by continued financial irresponsibility illustrated by the general fund deficit, un-auditable conditions, and unsustainable management practices. The adoption of the JEMCO measure was passed unanimously during the 2007 meeting.

Chuuk's Compact Fund Control Commission (CFCC) received a copy Bussanich's letter instructing them to "immediately suspend processing of payments for Compact-related obligations or expenditures incurred in these three sectors after August 4, 2008."

The letter also requested that the CFCC not release additional payments under the reduction-in-force (RIF) grant, "as it appears that Chuuk State government is no longer in compliance with the terms of the grant supporting financial reforms." ***(Bill Jaynes)***

Test explosion scheduled in Guam

GUAM—In preparation for Vigilant Guard 2008, a test explosion is scheduled to take place at John F. Kennedy High School, Tamuning, Guam, today at 1pm.

"This training exercise will greatly benefit everyone on Guam to help us better prepare for future potential threats," said Maj. Gen. Donald Goldhorn, the adjutant general, Guam National Guard. "The training that we are doing here is as realistic as can be given the circumstances, and we are working with our civilian authorities to ensure that safety of our community is our priority."

There will be trained personnel overseeing the execution of this exercise to ensure safety measures are in place.

Vigilant Guard is a regional exercise program sponsored by the National Guard Bureau. The program provides an opportunity for State National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, State Joint Task Forces and Field Units to improve command and control and operational relationships with internal, regional civilian, federal operational relationships with internal, regional civilian, federal and military partners against homeland security threats.

Today and tomorrow, a Field Training Exercise is scheduled to take place at the high school for approximately 36 hours of operation. Another explosion that will launch this FTX is scheduled to take place during early morning hours today. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 17, 1999

Visitor arrivals slightly up in August

Visitor arrivals for the month of August totaled 44,157, or a 2.4 percent increase compared to the month of August 1998, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Overall, there was a marginal decline in arrivals from CNMI's major markets as Japan recorded a 1 percent drop in August 1999 despite the chartered flights delivered by Japan Airlines. This slight drop was attributed to the summer holiday season celebrated during the months of July and August.

MVA pushes TV ad campaign

In a move to reach a wider market, the Marianas Visitors Authority will still push through with a television advertisement of the CNMI in selected cities in Japan. Due to limited budget, the tourism office has chosen the cities of Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka for the showing of a television commercial, according to MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio.

CPA mulls lifting of reduced manhours

With little signs of improvement in its financial condition, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is studying the possibility of reinstating the 80-hour pay period, according to its executive director. In a memorandum to employees, Carlos H. Salas commended the CPA staff for continuously striving to achieve excellence in carrying out their jobs despite the reduction in manhours. "While the implementation of a 72-hour pay period has not been easy, I am happy to report that thanks to your dedication and commitment, service and safety have not suffered in the slightest degree," said Salas.

September 17, 2001

US troops told to prepare for war

President Bush ordered U.S. troops to get ready for war and braced Americans for a long, difficult assault against terrorists to avenge the deadliest attack on the nation. "Those who make war against the United States have chosen their own destruction," he declared Saturday. "We will smoke them out of their holes," Bush said. "We'll get them running and we'll bring them to justice."

Torres, Retirement Fund may reach settlement agreement

The camp of former Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres is confident that a settlement may be reached with the Board once it convenes on Wednesday to iron out differences. Torres, through his counsel Michael W. Dotts, said the Board is open to possible settlement after the former administrator questioned his removal from office in court. "The Board is open to work this out."

Stranded travelers swarm Saipan airport

A huge crowd of stranded travelers trooped to the Saipan International Airport over the weekend as Continental Airlines dispatched the first flights out of Saipan Friday afternoon. Continental flew passengers from Saipan to Guam Friday, hours after the US Department of Transportation ordered the opening of the national air space at 1am Friday (local time).

September 17, 2002

Keeping govt funds safe Bill eyes to increase safeguards

Learning from the bitter lessons brought about by the Bank of Saipan debacle, a Saipan lawmaker has drafted an amendment that proposes to establish safeguards for public funds deposited in private banks, amid fears of the government losing $16 million resulting from the BoS financial ruin. Rep. William S. Torres, the measure's proponent, believes that pledging a bank's assets at 120 percent of the government's deposits is the way to protect public monies against unwarranted risks.

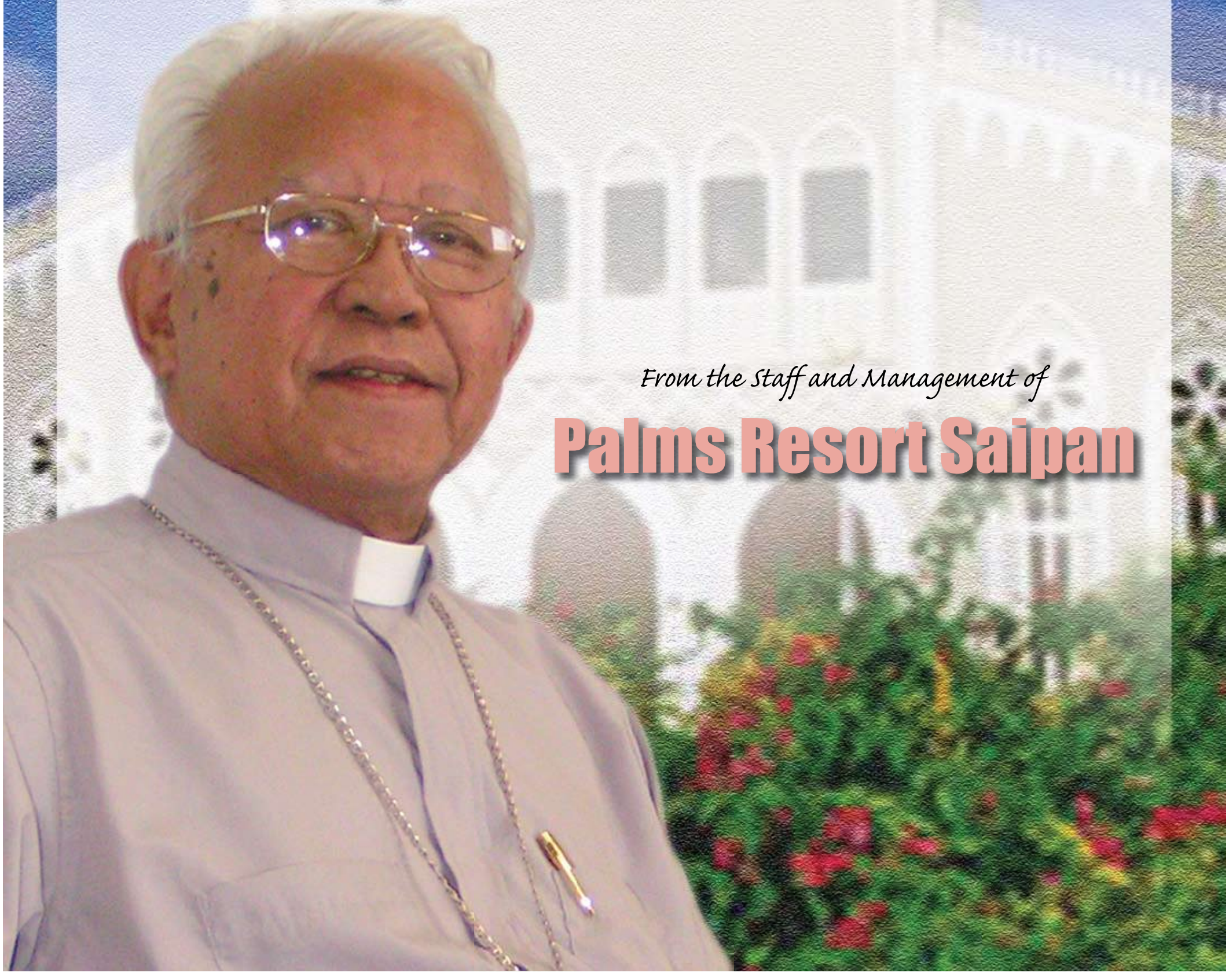
Initial meeting for 702 talks set

With the fiscal year drawing to a close this month, initial meetings for the upcoming Covenant 702 negotiations between the federal and Commonwealth governments will kick off on September 30, with both governments evaluating the need to hammer out a new agreement. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente said he would fly to Los Angeles to meet with Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary David Cohen so they could agree that there will be Covenant 702 negotiations next month.

Warm Wishes in celebrating your

75th Birthday

BISHOP TOMAS A. CAMACHO



From the Staff and Management of

Palms Resort Saipan

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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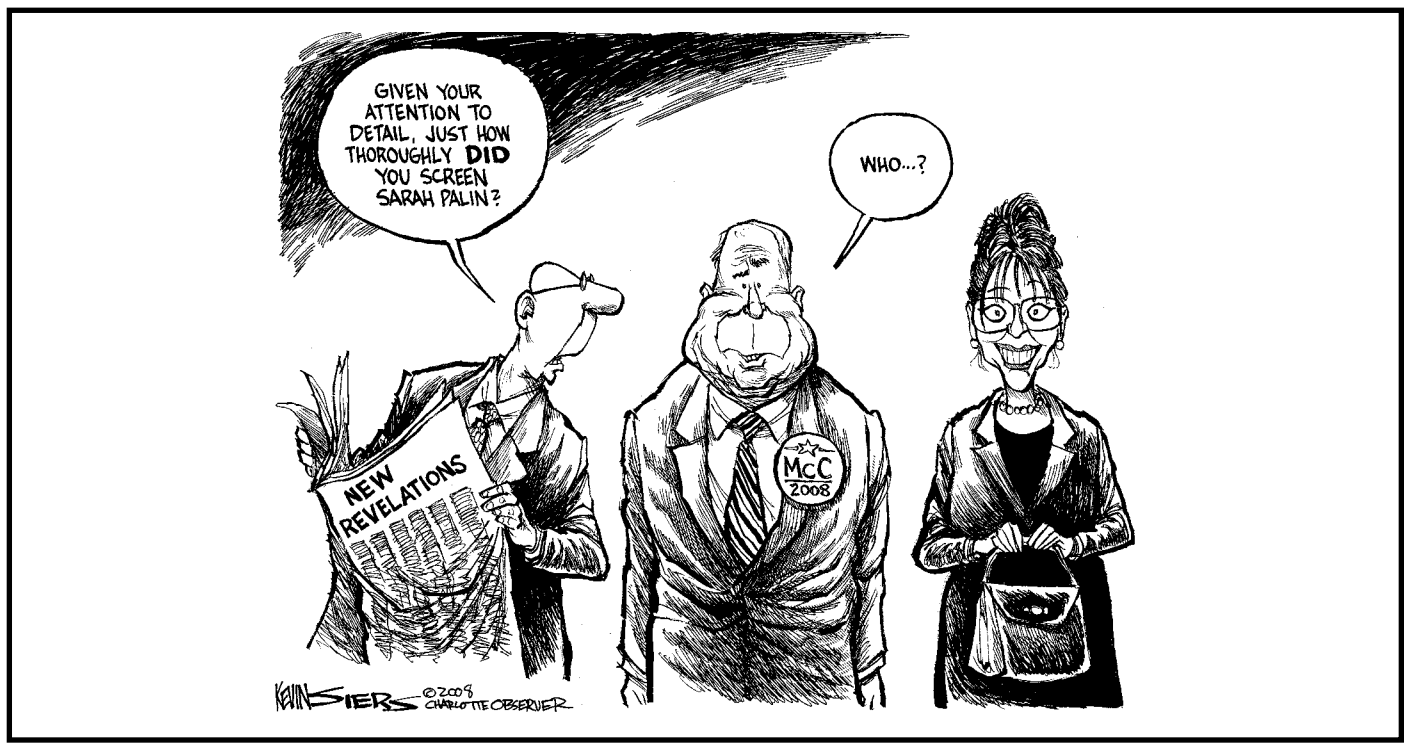
GIVEN YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL, JUST HOW THOROUGHLY DID YOU SCREEN SARAH PALIN?
WHO...?
NEW REVELATIONS
MCC 2008
KEVIN SIERS ©2008 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

In preparation for the future

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

As a smart entrepreneur, you realize that your future income can come from a variety of sources—contracts with the government, purchases by the military, grants from private institutions, customers overseas, local as well as visiting (tourists). You also realize that present and future economic opportunities are influenced by local, national as well as global trends, laws and perspectives.

Here, then, are a few things the forward-thinking entrepreneur here in the CNMI might wish to do to anticipate, prepare, position, and capitalize on the future.

1. Position yourself as a government contractor.

Every year, billions of dollars in federally funded contracts are set aside for small business owners who choose to do business with the government. You may qualify for these set-asides as a "disadvantaged*" small business owner.

The term "disadvantaged" refers *to "Individuals who [given the history of the US] have been subjected to gender, racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias without regard to their qualities as individuals, and whose abilities to compete (therefore) are impaired because of diminished opportunities to obtain capital and credit."*

Therefore, your first step to gaining access to these funds as a woman-owned, minority-owned, native-owned, Asian-Pacific owned, or veteran-owned business, is to register. Visit www.ccr.gov—the Central Contractor Registration site—to get started. *(Additional steps in a future article)*

2. Find out what the military purchases

We've all no doubt heard of the so-called "military build-up" that's in the works for Guam.

If your strategy for the future includes capitalizing on this eventuality, then now's the time to do a Google.com (or other search engine) search for "*selling to the military*" and click on the result that starts with "http://permanent.access.gpo.gov..." where you'll find sections titled:

- GENERAL INFORMATION
- ITEMS PURCHASED
- LOCATION OF MILITARY PURCHASING OFFICES.

This information will help you get an idea of what products and services may start to be in demand once the influx of military personnel starts in this region. Position yourself early.

3. Research what Chinese vacationers want and need

According to the latest news, direct Shanghai to Saipan flights will begin serving the CNMI on September 29, 2008. What do you know about Chinese people, culture, habits, vacation expectations that can put you or your business ahead of the curve? There's more to know than just a few words in Mandarin.

4. Investigate ways to cool homes without air conditioning

Roof insulation of various types are often a cost-efficient way to reduce the indoor temperature of your home by as much as 7 degrees (C) or 12 degrees (F). Since I'm probably the only one on island who doesn't mind a hot house, you should have a good number of potential clients here willing to reduce their long-term electricity bills with a one-time roof rehab.

Perhaps you can offer a payment plan to ease the burden. Or perhaps a project to outfit the CNMI with energy-efficient "green" homes may qualify your business for a government or private grant of some sort.

5. Get going on going 'green'

Speaking of going "green," according to the latest news: "Pending legislation may require government agencies to award 5 percent of contract dollars to "Green" businesses. Five percent is the equivalent of approximately $22 billion in government contracts." Offering energy-efficient building supplies, green landscaping, lighting, heating and even green-minded consulting services may be your ticket to these dollars. Get going now! Check out www.business.gov for more information.

6. Familiarize yourself with the CNMI Zoning Law

The new Saipan—what and where certain types of businesses will exist—will be influenced greatly by the 2007 zoning requirements. Visit www.zoning.gov.mp to download a copy.

7. Compile a list of our advantages

"What advantages?" you say? Well, even with increasing minimum wage, federalization, and a changing global economy, there are still advantages to doing business in the CNMI.

According to cnmi-guide.com: *"There are two little known tax regulations that may be of substantial benefit to some individuals and corporations. One is a United States Internal Revenue tax credit for U. S. "possessions" corporations and the other concerns the application of CNMI tax rates on the sale of appreciated property outside the Commonwealth.*

Check out the Department of Public Lands website at www.dpl.gov.mp, as well as cnmi-guide.com for more information on Saipan's, Tinian's and Rota's free trade zones, tax advantages and benefits of doing business on these islands. For example, let's consider the Jones Act.

The Jones Act exemption: Because of the Jones Act, all commodities ordered for Guam, for instance, from the U.S. mainland must, by law, be transported on U. S. flag carriers and are thus subject to freight rates much higher than would otherwise be the case had they been carried on foreign flag ships with their lower freight rates.

Perhaps, as suggested on the www.cnmi-guide.com site, shipping goods from Asian ports to Saipan FIRST and THEN to Guam could result in lower costs overall for the region.

8. Change your perspective

Finally, here are a few random thoughts to consider:

- All societies go through changes that range from minor bumps in the road to major upheavals.
- We are currently going through a transition.
- To survive a transition, it is often more important to have a strategy, than an opinion.
- This period may not be a good time for everybody, but it can be a good time for somebody.
- Anybody can see the path during the good weather, but it takes a real visionary to see and walk the path during the bad weather. This is a time for visionaries.
- There is a void being created that needs to be filled. Regardless of what happens, this void will eventually be filled by someone.

The above preparation and positioning suggestions, as well as changing your perspective on what is occurring, are just a few of the many things you can do to prepare for and survive the present state of affairs.

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

EDITORIAL

Release the rice

Japan's rice mountain is a monument to the irrationality of economic protectionism. Rice-growing in Japan is notoriously inefficient. But it is also the source of income for a powerful political constituency, so the country blocks consumers from eating imported rice. As a sop to the United States and other producers, each year Japan imports some rice, which it stores in warehouses. As of April 1, the stockpile had accumulated to 1.3 million metric tons, enough to feed more than 20 million Japanese for a year.

Japan's hoarding turned scandalous earlier this year when the price of rice soared to record levels, causing suffering and political unrest across Asia. In May, Japan took what appeared to be a positive step, announcing that it would sell 200,000 metric tons of rice to the Philippines, one of the countries hit hardest by the price spike. Tokyo also pledged a donation of 20,000 metric tons to five African nations.

We applauded these moves—but we may have spoken too soon. Three months later, Japan has not released a single grain. The sale to the Philippines has not happened because the two countries are still haggling over price. Nothing more has been heard on Africa donations; a spokesman for the Japanese Embassy in Washington told us that he had no details. Meanwhile, Bloomberg News has reported that Japan is considering selling 600,000 metric tons of the rice to its own farmers for use as animal feed.

The urgency of the issue has eased since last we wrote about it, because rice prices have gone down, from nearly $1,100 per metric ton in April to about $735 today. The drop reflects not only an overall decline in commodity prices, led by the plummeting price of oil, but also reduced export controls in other Asian countries and the salutary psychological impact of Japan's apparent willingness to sell its surpluses. Still, poor Filipinos are paying far more for rice than they did a year ago, and they need all the help they can get. Japan should promptly close a favorable deal with Manila and expedite donations of its imported rice stockpile to hungry people elsewhere. And it must abandon its costly, wasteful protectionism—sooner rather than later.

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The St. Thomas Syndrome

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Our people seek clarity which parade to follow on federalization: Dialogue (acquiescence) or a more proactive approach (lawsuit) to resolving this controversy. At issue is the implementation of an economically annihilative or destructive federal labor law slated for implementation next year.

Dialogue is history! Otherwise, something positive would have come out of the 902 talks to which there's none. I'm sure most of you aren't blind, mute or deaf to understand this factual assertion. The planned lawsuit would give the CNMI a chance to force negotiations through judicial consent decree that would give us the opportunity to preserve our rights to greater degree of self-government. It isn't an act of attempting to sever relations, but to find out why the current relationship isn't working.

What's important to prevent via the lawsuit is the highly likely economic contraction of 40-60 percent. It would reduce revenue generation by leaps and bounds, the effect being two-fold: 1). A reduction in business volume, the consequence being a huge plunge in revenue. 2). It means far less revenues to support education, health and public safety, among other services.

Even more egregious effect is the joblessness it would force upon employees in both the private and public sectors. In short, more employees will be dealing with joblessness resulting from far less income for family needs and the loss of the first family home. This isn't my view of self-government nor is it the answer to keeping our people gainfully employed so they can move on with their lives. It's hard enough as it is and there's no need to add fuel to an impending inferno of destruction.

I have seen and lived the hardship of joblessness in 1960s when the U.S. Department of the Interior took over the Trust Territory Government from the Department of the Navy. I am not prepared to re-live that chapter in my life nor am I ready to let it slide negligently just to force the issue against our innocent children. This would be highly irresponsible and unconscionable an act by those of us given the privilege to represent our people in defense of their inalienable rights to self-government. This is a fundamental policy under the Covenant Agreement that must be defended at all cost.

Think about it and think beyond your blind political agenda of self-destruction. Let St. Thomas alone on his biblical pedestal. Need we stick our filthy fingers into His wound to find out if His enemies pierced His rib side?

'Are You Sleeping?'

The neglect of the past 25 years has finally begun to haunt us. How ironic that some of our men of wisdom—who were at the helm in recent years—are now questioning their own awareness of personal inadequacies. In other words, they were there but did nothing—plan for the future expansion of the power plant—and now call it "human disaster." Are you victims of circumstance or did you create the circumstance because of your failure to plan? You're now struggling to make us believe that you're victims, too? Aren't you the architects of this disaster and have decided to take on the grand role of ostriches on a tropical sandy island? Komun sense, anybody?

Now we take the failure of past government leaders to Uncle George Bush, singing: "Uncle George, Uncle George, never mind for da kine plan, just give us new power plant!" The accusation of "reluctance" started with you folks when you simply looked the other way in recent past as though everything is fine. Now, may we hear words of honesty from men of integrity? The snooze is over but we still wanted to go on picnicking while our roof is on fire. Well, I hope you're not telling me that you fit the category of "people who didn't know what happened."

While at it, may I congratulate Ed Propst for putting up a rally confirming that this administration offers concretes over his usual whining, intoning, Three Blind Mice! Or am I reading this wrong? Lights are on but nobody's home? Hello? How about concretes, sir? And if you can't offer any solutions, then I suppose you are one kid playing with adult toys? I think there's lots of room for, say, growing up? And thanks for the rally in futility. We needed the extra booster!

Finally, KSPN ran a story about the Lt. Governor's utility bills. I quiz what's the legitimacy of the story or its relevance to the indictment? Was this part of the smear campaign to fan hatred against the accused? Shouldn't this story be brought to court if only to find the architect behind it? People, we weren't born yesterday and we certainly know who's behind this scheme. An interesting twist that has not an iota of legitimacy!

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Letters to the Editor

Taking a stand

While the Aggreko engines have no doubt brought a great deal of relief to our suffering, we must keep in mind that our power outages and the problems with CUC are far from over.

What we also must keep in mind is the fact that we should have never needed Aggreko's high-speed, fuel-guzzling engines in the first place. We are spending $504,000 each and every month for at least a year and a half, excluding fuel and other hidden costs. Had this administration never agreed to sole-source the repair and rehabilitation contracts to DCM and CISCO, we would have never needed back-up generators.

While critics have said we should stop pointing fingers and that we cannot change the past, we must certainly learn from the past, as it is evident that we keep repeating the same mistakes over and over again.

So here we are, celebrating stable power. My question is, at whose expense? Do you honestly believe CUC can afford to pay Aggreko and Telesource and PMIC and its other contractors?

I personally feel that the biggest group to join our CUC Protest should be the *retirees* of the CNMI! Some Retirement Fund trustees and certain legislators believe that the CNMI Retirement Fund should invest in CUC. Need I say more?

We have talked about privatization or a co-op for more than a decade now. The time for talking is over. It is time that the good people of the CNMI take action. We need to do more than just take CUC back; we need to take the government back! Our people first, not political parties! Enough!

I have been asked who should attend this CUC Protest. Everyone should attend, regardless of age or ethnic background. If you suffered long, sleepless nights without power, you should attend. If you lost electronic equipment and appliances, you should attend. If you ever disputed your CUC bill, you should attend. If you feel you are paying far too much for utilities, you should attend. In other words, everyone should attend.

Take a good look at your last utility bill. Can you honestly afford the cost of 24-hour power? If you can, then you are one of the fortunate few. But I have spoken to many families who no longer can afford power and are off the grid. Do you think Aggreko means anything to them?

To the small-minded critics who believe that our power outages were nothing more than an inconvenience, I would like you to come with me to some of the homes I have visited. Judge Govendo has seen an upsurge in domestic violence and much of it can be attributed to many factors, but the outrageously high cost of electricity is certainly one of them. I have met with families who do not have power anymore and who have done their very best to keep their lights on at home. I do not believe in a welfare state, but it is what we are destined to become when power is priced higher than what the general market can afford.

My brothers and sisters of the CNMI, I am pleading with you to join us at our CUC Protest today, Sept. 17, 2008, 5:30pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base. This is only one step out of many we must take to cleanse the old ways of doing things and to show our leaders that we, the good people of the CNMI, are taking a stand. We are no longer asking for affordable, reliable power and potable water. We are *demanding* it!

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

Why another pep rally?

While it must be admitted that CUC is a long way from perfect, it must also be admitted that strong progress has been made in the last few weeks. There is already a noticeable difference. The worst is already behind us. We have temporary generators installed in Lower Base that will produce enough to get us by while repairs are made to the main powerhouse generators.

Thanks to the legislative leaders, we already have a request into the Army Corps of Engineers via the Department of the Interior to come and give us an appraisal, strategy suggestions and a plan of action to bring CUC back to a reliable state. The Fitial Administration claims they also have a long range plan that involves privatization.

We already have a commitment from U.S. Navy Admiral French to send experts to Saipan to take a look at our problem and maybe even supply "barge power" or render some other form of assistance per a request from the business community.

Our government has already contacted the federal government about Stafford Act assistance, and have been turned down because our "disaster" did not qualify under their terms and definitions.

So why are the rabble rousers, Propst and Sablan, organizing yet another march/meeting/protest? May I suggest that they are doing it for self-interest and political purposes and not to help improve CUC. If one or more of the abovementioned courses of action produces results they will be there pretending to collect the credit when in fact the real work preceded their "pep rally" by many months.

To be fair it should be noted that they have another reason (besides trying to develop a new voter pool) for holding the rally. They are both of the naïve belief that CUC, and in fact all of the Commonwealth, should be taken over and run by the federal government. Until and unless they themselves get into Executive Office they trust no one locally to do a decent job of governing. They want, like children, to have it all their own way. Tina Sablan has only been a government worker her whole career so her paycheck has decided her choice of governmental bedfellows. Ed Propst, on the other hand has at least dabbled in private enterprise and should know better but maybe now has political aspirations himself. Advocates or aspirants?

Will they discuss long term plans and generate an actual policy statement or will we just hear more about hardships and worker decency and other off island generated gripes designed to uproot local government and replace it with stronger unilateral rule by the United States. They, being U.S. educated and socialized, have bought hook line and sinker the greener pastures doctrine that the U.S. does everything better than the CNMI does. These two will not be happy until there is a Wal-Mart on every corner and burgers replace Chamorro red rice on every plate. They want the Marianas to be a miniature Ames Iowa so it feels comfortable to them. They hope to attract other disaffected mainlanders and foreign workers with gleams of green cards in their eyes to the pep rally and to their voter bloc. Having already scammed the foreign workers, now they want to try their false tactics and unrealistic expectations on the rest of us.

They are just plain wrong in their aims. The last thing CUC needs is more government intervention, U.S. or otherwise, The only real possibility for a successful long term plan for CUC doesn't involve any government action at all, other than to sell CUC. CUC must be cut loose from the entangling and inefficient hand of top down rule and be allowed to develop privately as successful Utility businesses all over the world do. It must be removed from government control.

Hey, Ames Iowa, if the power is on 24/7 where you live and the rates are affordable, just who is running your power company? Ahhhhh, it is a private company (owned by the rate payers. Ames users pay about 8 cents per kWh compared to our 45 cents). Hey Saipan, CNMI, just who is running our power plant now? Just who do the pep rally organizers want to run it? Do you really think changing one government agency for another one will make a difference? In your heart you know it will not.

In conclusion, we should be striving daily to get government, all government, fingers out of the CUC pie. Only then, when it is being run as a private sector company will we ever have the comforting feeling of being able to take reliable 24/7/365 power and water for granted. You won't need to know what your grid # is or what your outage schedule is any more.

Go to the pep rally if you want the other kids to see that you lettered in provincial kowtowing; otherwise save your gas. The chances of this gathering doing more than ruffling your pom poms is remote.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

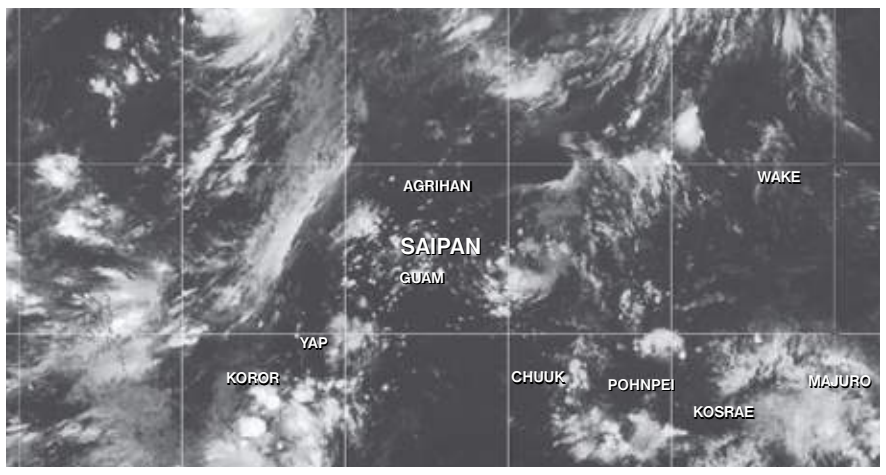
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼63
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲92	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲61	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼52
Miami	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
New York	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼60
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼70
Paris	Cloudy	▲63	▼47
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼54
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼63
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲76	▼69
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:30PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A developing low-level circulation centered over Pagan at 18N146E is producing numerous showers and a few thunderstorms south of the circulation center or north of Saipan but south of Pagan between 18N and 15N from 144E to 149E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring farther south of the circulation center over Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 14N140E to 15N152E. A monsoon trough extends eastward from a circulation centered near the Phillipines at 9N128E to near Palau at 9N135E then turns southeastward to end at EQ143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along the trough axis west of Koror within 90 miles of a line from 7N130E to 10N134E. Converging winds south of the trough axis are producing widely scattered showers southwest of Koror or west of a line from 6N133E to EQ135E. An upper-level trough extends northward from 2N141E through an upper-level low centered at 12N141E to end at another upper-level low centered at 20N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found near the trough axis north of Yap within 90 miles of a line from 11N134E to 17N138E. Another upper-level trough extends northward from 10N158E through an upper low centered west of Wake Island at 17N161E to beyond 25N at 162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring west of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 17N166E to 21N162E. A trade-wind disturbance existing south and east of Pohnpei is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 6N and 1N from 156E to 162E. Trade-wind convergence south of the Marshalls is allowing widely scattered showers to develop within 100 miles of a line from 3N166E to 4N175E. A surface trough approaching the Marshalls from the east is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 90 miles of a line from 3N175E to 6N177E to 12N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:44AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:46AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:57PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:43PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:06AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:27PM	7:26AM
Thursday	8:12PM	8:23AM
Friday	9:02PM	9:24AM
Saturday	9:57PM	10:27AM
Sunday	10:57PM	11:32AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

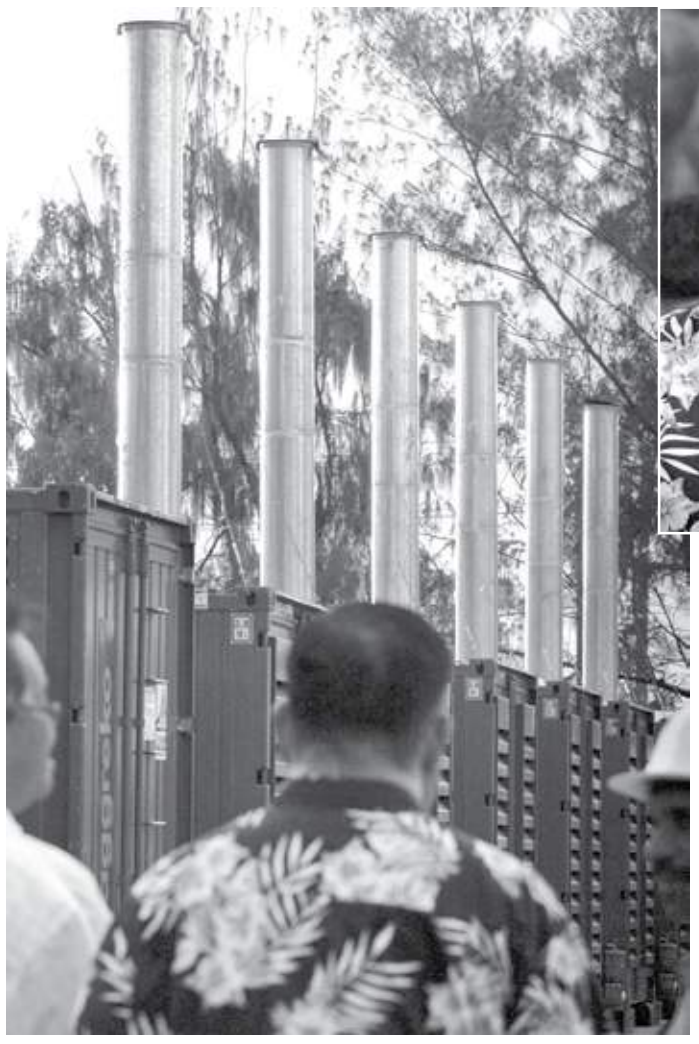
FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Island Snapshots

EMERGENCY POWER
A crewmember checks the lines connecting the emergency Aggreko generators to the power grid Friday afternoon last week in Lower Base, just before Gov. Benigno Fitial turned the switch on.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Gov. Benigno Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos look at the emergency Aggreko generators before turning it on in Lower Base Friday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña shows Gov. Benigno Fitial the emergency Aggreko generators in Lower Base Friday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy belated birthday greetings going out to Diego Junior O. Kaipat. "Best wishes on your special day, with wishes for many more to come." From Jocelyn and Kevin Kapileo.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOUSE SESSION
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios talks to Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider during Wednesday's session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Diego T. Benavente gives his remarks while Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres asks permission to speak during a session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill Wednesday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs the proclamation declaring Sept. 20, as Seat Check Saturday and Sept. 21-27 as Child Passenger Safety Week while acting DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela looks on at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday. The activity was in line with the department's mission to promote proper use of child safety seats to reduce death and serious injury among children in the CNMI.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MONUMENT TALKS
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider gestures as he delivers his remarks on the marine monument proposal during intense discussion at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill Wednesday. Also in photo is Rep. Christina M. Sablan.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FREEDOM WALK
Spouses, parents and children of deployed U.S. service members, participate in Saipan's first "Freedom Walk" at the American Memorial Park on Sept. 11. The event honors the victims of 9/11 and America's military personnel, as well as to celebrate freedom.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Business

Meltdown in US finance system pummels stock market

By PATRICK RIZZO and JOE BEL BRUNO
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

AP

Elizabeth Rose of Lehman Brothers MarketMakers works at her post on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Sept. 15, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—The upheaval in the American financial system sent shock waves through the stock market Monday, producing the worst day on Wall Street in seven years as investors digested the failure of one of its most venerable banks and wondered which domino would be next to fall.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 500 points, more than 4 percent, its steepest point drop since the day the stock market reopened after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. About $700 billion evaporated from retirement plans, government pension funds and other investment portfolios.

The carnage capped a tumultuous 24 hours that redrew U.S. finance. Lehman Brothers, an investment bank that predates the Civil War and weathered the Great Depression, filed the largest bankruptcy in American history. A second storied bank, Merrill Lynch, fled into the arms of Bank of America.

It was by far the most stomach-churning single day since a financial crisis began to bubble up from billions of dollars in rotten mortgage loans that have crippled the balance sheets of one bank after another and landed mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac under the control of the federal government.

"We are in the middle of a deep, dark recession, and it won't end soon. Here it is, and it is pretty nasty," said Barry Ritholtz, who writes the popular financial blog The Big Picture and is CEO of research firm FusionIQ.

And the fallout was far from over. American International Group, the world's largest insurer, was fighting for its very survival: New York Gov. David Paterson moved to allow the company to tap one of its subsidiaries for an emergency loan to stay above water.

"AIG still remains financially sound," Paterson said, even as the company's stock tumbled almost 60 percent. Almost $20 billion in AIG's shareholder value was wiped out Monday.

In Washington, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who refused to toss a financial lifeline to Lehman, was unapologetic as the Bush administration signaled strongly that Wall Street shouldn't expect more rescues from Washington.

The American people should remain confident in the "soundness and resilience in the American financial system," Paulson told reporters at the White House.

Six months ago, Paulson moved to prevent the collapse of Bear Stearns, brokering a deal for JP Morgan Chase & Co. to buy the firm at a fire-sale price with Federal Reserve backing. Earlier this month, he stepped in to help the government seize Fannie and Freddie in hopes of reversing the housing and credit crises.

But Monday, Paulson said he "never once" considered it appropriate to put taxpayer money at risk to resolve the problems at Lehman Brothers, which was saddled with $60 billion worth of soured real estate holdings.

The result was one of the most momentous days in Wall Street history since legendary banker J. Pierpont Morgan helped broker the rescue of financial markets during the Panic of 1907.

The Dow industrials dropped 504.48 points to close at 10,917.51, the first time since July they have finished under 11,000. It was the sixth-largest point drop ever and the worst since Sept. 17, 2001, when the average fell 684.81 points on the first day of trading after the terror attacks.

In percentage terms, the fall for the Dow on Monday was its worst since the summer of 2002. The index has shed nearly a quarter of its value since its record high last October.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost more than 4 1/2 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index lost more than 3 1/2 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian markets sink on Lehman, Merrill woes

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets tumbled Tuesday amid growing fears of a global financial crisis as investors reacted to the demise of two of Wall Street's biggest names, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 5.3 percent to 11,560.66 in mid-afternoon trading, while Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng Index shed 5.7 percent. Both markets—Asia's two biggest—had been closed for holidays on Monday, when news first broke about the dramatic events on Wall Street. Across the region, markets were all deep in the red. South Korea's Kospi was down 5.4 percent, Taiwan's benchmark was off 4.7 percent and China's Shanghai index was down 3.2 percent. Japan's central bank on Tuesday injected 2.5 trillion yen ($24 billion) into money markets and issued a statement vowing to take measures to maintain stability in the country's financial markets. Cabinet ministers, along with the central bank chief, were also holding an emergency meeting. "The Bank of Japan will carefully monitor recent situations surrounding the U.S. financial institutions and their influences, and will continue to strive to ensure smooth settlement of funds and maintain stability in financial markets through measures such as appropriate money market operations," central bank Gov. Masaaki Shirakawa said. The dollar also got hit, falling to 104.43 yen early Tuesday afternoon in Asia from mid-107 yen levels before the weekend.

Views beginning to change on possible rate cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—With turbulence hitting financial markets as a global credit crisis claims heavyweight victims, suddenly the possibility of a reduction in interest rates by the Federal Reserve is back on the agenda. Economists were split on whether the central bank would actually cut a key rate when officials meet Tuesday, but it was widely agreed that the Fed will at least open the door to reducing rates in the weeks ahead if financial markets do not stabilize. Wall Street had a very tough day Monday, with the Dow Jones industrial average tumbling by 504 points in the steepest slide since the September 2001 terrorist attacks. "Given the meltdown in markets, a rate cut is becoming fairly possible," David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York, said in a comment echoed by other economists. That represents a significant change from just a few days ago when the widely accepted view was that the Fed was finished cutting interest rates and the next move would be to start raising rates, but probably not until next year.

Oil plunges below $92 in Asia on US credit fears

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices plummeted Tuesday in Asia, falling below $92 a barrel as investors feared the U.S. credit crisis that brought down brokerage giant Lehman Brothers will drag on global economic growth and restrain demand for crude. Light, sweet crude for October delivery tumbled $3.77 to $91.94 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange midday in Singapore. The contract fell $5.47 overnight to settle at $95.71, the first time oil closed below $100 since March 4. In a stunning turn of events Monday on Wall Street, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., a 158-year-old investment bank, filed for bankruptcy after failing to find a buyer and Merrill Lynch & Co. agreed to be bought out by Bank of America Corp. "People are selling everything. It's a bit of panic," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director for market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "We may not have seen the end of demand destruction. It's scary what going on economic-wise right now, and that's why oil is selling off." The Dow Jones industrials lost 504 points, or 4.4 percent, on Monday in their worst point drop since the September 2001 terrorist attacks, and Asian stock markets tumbled Tuesday. U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson tried to calm markets, saying the American people can remain confident in the "soundness and resilience in the American financial system."

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,750.80 Down 66.90 (-1.39%)
HONG KONG	18,302.59 Down 1,050.31 (-5.53%)
JAKARTA	1,662.47 Down 56.79 (-3.30%)
TOKYO	11,609.72 Down 605.04 (-4.95%)
K. LUMPUR	1,009.41 Down 22.22 (-2.15%)
MANILA	2,421.72 Down 114.44 (-4.51%)
SINGAPORE	2,450.90 Down 35.65 (-1.43%)
SEOUL	1,387.75 Down 90.17 (-6.10%)
BANGKOK	616.93 Down 25.46 (-3.96%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,917.51 -4.42%
S&P	1,192.70 -4.71%
NASDAQ	2,179.91 -3.60%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2673
British Pound	0.5571
Canadian Dollar	1.0745
Chinese Yuan	6.6418
Euro	0.7016
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7828
Indian Rupee	46.5700
Indonesian Rupiah	9,480.0000
Japanese Yen	103.8800
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4540
New Zealand Dollar	1.5376
Philippine Peso	47.2650
Singapore Dollar	1.4335
South Korean Won	1,111.3000
Swiss Franc	1.1119
Taiwan Dollar	32.0860
Thailand Baht	34.2300

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Ike victims wait in line for food, water and gas

AP

Eric Smith, Assistant Administrator of FEMA Logistics, speaks to Houston Police Officer at the FEMA distribution point in Houston where water, food, and ice are distributed to the community in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in Houston, Monday, Sept. 15, 2008.

HOUSTON (AP)—Thousands of victims of Hurricane Ike settled in at shelters for what could be weeks, and others waited wearily in line for food, water, ice and gasoline Monday as it became increasingly clear the disaster along the Texas coast would be measured not by its death toll but by the misery it spread.

Almost three days after the storm steamrolled the coast, the extent of the damage was still coming into focus, with rescue teams finally reaching some of the hardest-hit and most inaccessible places, including Bolivar Peninsula, a resort on Galveston Bay where entire neighborhoods were obliterated. Homes were wiped from foundations and stilts jutted up from the sand—but their occupants were living, buoying the spirits of rescue crews.

While the number of confirmed deaths was still remarkably low—most of the 39 deaths blamed on Ike were outside of Texas—the distress was considerable.

Nearly 37,000 people were in shelters, and there was no word on when those living in the most devastated towns, such as Galveston, might return. An estimated 2.2 million people in Texas alone remained without power. Many service stations had no gasoline, or no electricity to pump it. With no running water, some residents were dumping toilet waste directly into the sewers. Major highways were still under water.

Victims grew irritable as they waited for food and water. Some relief stations ran out of supplies, leaving thousands hungry and panicked.

Lines of cars stretched two hours or longer at Texas Southern University for packages of bottled water and bags of ice, the only supplies on hand until three 18-wheelers showed up around noon. Cheers broke out when it was announced there were boxes with chili, a small bag of Frito chips and a cookie.

"Why didn't they call for volunteers when they knew this was going to hit?" grumbled Irene Makris, who waited in line but was told to drive to a station in another part of Houston, closer to her neighborhood. "This is bull."

Snapshots of damage were emerging everywhere: In Galveston, oil coated the water and beaches with a sheen, and residents were ordered off the beach. Dozens of burial vaults popped up out of the soggy ground, many disgorging their coffins. Several came to rest against a chain-link fence choked with garbage and trinkets left behind by mourners.

Strains mounting in shelters for Ike evacuees

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Evacuees streaming into hundreds of makeshift shelters set up around Texas are bringing all the belongings they can carry and at least one unanswerable question: What now?

How long will they have to stay? What is left of their homes along the Texas coastline ravaged by Hurricane Ike? What has happened to their friends and neighbors and relatives? And how much worse can it get?

Shauna Leigh, 20, arrived Friday at 1 a.m. after fleeing Galveston with her mother, Rena, and 2-month-old baby, Thomas, just a day ahead of Ike.

She stood outside a San Antonio shelter Monday morning, trying to get away from the crowds and grab a bit of fresh air as her baby lay quietly in his carriage, wrapped in a Pooh Bear top and a baby blue blanket dotted with footballs.

Leigh was among the first to arrive at the shelter; her evacuee wrist band bears the number 350. Then more and more folks started streaming in, including the many busloads of evacuees who had stayed behind for the storm. Those new arrivals receive wrist bands numbered somewhere in upper thousands, now.

"There wasn't hardly anyone in there. It was quiet, but as time progressed, more people came," said Shauna, as her mother chimed in: "Longer breakfast line. Longer lunch line. Longer dinner line."

They'd like to stay with relatives, but many of them live in Houston or elsewhere along the coast and are still without power.

"Right now we're just waiting it out, seeing what happens. I don't think I can stay here that long. There's just so many people and there's sick people, too, and I have my son," Shauna Leigh said. "I just don't want to make this a permanent home."

More than 37,000 people have been left homeless and are staying at shelters. Even more are on the way as search and rescue teams continue to

Obama, McCain blame economic woes on greed, policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—With chaos rocking financial markets, John McCain assailed "greed and corruption" on Wall Street and promised to clean it up, while Barack Obama blamed White House policies and said his opponent would only deliver more of the same.

The presidential candidates struggled on Monday to seize control of the issue voters say is most important—the economy—with Republicans and Democrats alike saying the man who succeeds may well win the election.

However, in a dizzying day of speeches and statements, neither White House hopeful offered any fresh ideas for turning things around. Instead each relied on the same vague, though vastly different, pitches he has sounded over the past few months for fixing what ails the country.

And they didn't emphasize that they are part of the Congress that has done little to head off the crisis. McCain is a four-term Arizona senator, Obama a first-termer from Illinois.

Bemoaning "the most serious financial crisis since the Great Depression," Democrat Obama faulted Republican McCain's domestic policy agenda as the same as President Bush's - "one that says we should just stick our heads in the sand and ignore economic problems until they spiral into crises."

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks during a rally at the Colorado State Fair Grounds in Pueblo, Colo., Monday, Sept. 15, 2008.

McCain declared in a new TV ad, "Our economy is in crisis. Only proven reformers John McCain and Sarah Palin can fix it"—though he also told voters in Jacksonville, Fla., "The fundamentals of our economy are strong

While presidents—and candidates of the party occupying the White House—often take credit for good economies and try to avoid blame for bad ones, financial crises nearly always have multiple causes.

Palin won't meet with 'Troopergate' investigator

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Gov. Sarah Palin is unlikely to speak with an independent counsel hired by Alaska lawmakers to review the firing of her public safety commissioner, a spokesman for Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Monday.

Spokesman Ed O'Callaghan initially said Palin, the Republican nominee for vice president, would not testify as part of the probe "as long as it remains tainted." He later clarified his statement to say Palin is "unlikely to cooperate" with the inquiry.

O'Callaghan also said he did not know whether Palin's husband, Todd, would challenge a subpoena issued last Friday to compel his cooperation. Thomas Van Flein, the Palins' lawyer, who has accepted service of the subpoena, did not return messages seeking comment. The governor herself has not been subpoenaed, but the Legislature's investigator, Steve Branchflower, has said he hopes to speak with her.

McCain's campaign insists the investigation into the firing of Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan has been hijacked by Democrats. The campaign says it can prove Monegan was fired in July because of insubordination on budget issues, and not because he refused to fire a state trooper who went through a nasty divorce from Palin's sister.

To that end, the campaign released a series of e-mails detailing the frustration several Palin administration officials experienced in dealing with Monegan. The "last straw," the campaign said, was a trip Monegan planned to Washington in July to seek federal money for investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases.

Cell-phone ban sought for Calif. train operators

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The state's top rail safety regulator said Monday he would seek an emergency order banning train operators from using cell phones, as federal investigators sought to determine whether the engineer of a commuter train was text messaging before a crash that killed 25 people.

Michael Peevey, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, said some railroad operators have policies prohibiting the personal use of cell phones, but they're widely ignored. "Our order would make it the law and we'll go after violators. We owe it to the public," he said.

The collision on Friday between the Metrolink commuter train and a Union Pacific freight train was the deadliest rail disaster in the U.S. in 15 years. Metrolink has blamed its engineer for not heeding a red light signal designed to prevent such wrecks.

Federal rail investigators said Monday that tests at the crash site showed the signals are working properly and there were no obstructions that may have prevented the engineer from seeing the red light.

"The question is, did he see it as red?" said Kitty Higgins, a board member for the National Transportation Safety Board. "Did he see it as something else? Did he see it at all?"

The federal agency said it will now review whether engineer Robert Sanchez was text messaging. Investigators did not find a cell phone belonging to Sanchez in the wreckage, but two teenage train buffs who befriended him told KCBS-TV that they received a text message from him a minute before the crash.

Metrolink prohibits rail workers from using cell phones on the job, but there is no existing federal regulation regarding the use of cell phones by railroad employees on the job, Federal Railroad Administration spokesman Steven Kulm said.

Higgins said her agency issued a subpoena Monday to get the engineer's cell phone records. She said Verizon Wireless has five days to respond to the subpoena request.

As NTSB experts prepared to conduct a simulated crash test on Tuesday, some commuters—many wary and emotional—returned to the rail line on the first day of service after the accident.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa tried to reassure them the trains are safe.

Asia

China warns more may be sickened by tainted milk

BEIJING (AP)—China's Health Ministry warned Tuesday of a possible rise in the number of babies sickened by contaminated milk powder, which has already been linked to the deaths of two infants and illnesses in more than 1,200 others.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted the ministry as saying medical agencies were prepared for a "possibly rising" number of cases, with China setting up a "multi-level treatment system" for affected infants.

The company at the heart of the widening food scandal, Sanlu Group Co., apologized for the tainted milk powder, which the Health Ministry has said was spiked with the industrial chemical melamine.

The company said suppliers who sold the raw milk apparently added the chemical, normally used in plastics, to make the milk seem higher in protein.

Zhang Zhenling, Sanlu's vice president, apologized Monday but did not explain why the company took so long to inform the public about the contamination despite receiving complaints as early as March and having tests confirm the presence of the chemical in early August.

The company went public with the information after its New Zealand stakeholder told the New Zealand government, which then informed the Chinese government.

"The serious safety accident of the Sanlu formula milk powder for infants has caused severe harm to many sickened babies and their families. We feel really sad about this," Zhang said, reading from a prepared statement.

Chinese health officials said 1,200 infants have been sickened by the tainted milk powder and police announced the arrests of two milk suppliers.

On Monday, the Health Ministry said a second infant from Gansu province had died of kidney failure after drinking the milk.

Vice Health Minister Ma Xiaowei told reporters that 1,253 infants had been sickened—mainly after developing kidney stones—more than twice the number previously acknowledged. Of those, 913 of the infants were only slightly affected, while 340 remained hospitalized and 53 cases were considered especially severe, he said.

Afghanistan frees young son of al-Qaida suspect

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The 12-year-old son of a woman suspected of links to al-Qaida and facing charges in New York was freed Monday by Afghanistan and sent to his family in Pakistan, two months after he was detained with his mother.

Officials say the boy, Ali Hassan, and his mother, Aafia Siddiqui, were detained outside the governor's house in Afghanistan's Ghazni province in July. The American-educated Pakistani woman was then handed over to U.S. custody and flown to New York where she was accused of trying to kill U.S. personnel.

The U.S. indictment alleges that during Siddiqui's interrogation in Ghazni, the 36-year-old picked up a soldier's rifle, announced her "desire to kill Americans" and fired at U.S. soldiers and FBI agents. She was wounded by return fire.

American prosecutors say that when taken into custody in Afghanistan, she was carrying handwritten notes referring to a "mass casualty attack" and listing the Empire State Building and other New York landmarks. However, the indictment contains no charges of terrorism.

Ali was with his mother at the time of her arrest and had been in Afghan custody ever since, officials said.

A spokesman for Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry, Sultan Ahmed Baheen, said Ali had spent the previous 10 days in a "guest house" of Afghanistan's intelligence service. Before that, he was in the custody of a prosecutor who deals with minors, the ministry said.

Baheen said Ali is a dual American-Pakistani citizen because he was born in the United States.

Elaine Whitfield Sharp, who represents the family of Aafia Siddiqui, said the boy's release was "wonderful news."

ASIAN BRIEFS

No sign of North Korean leader during key holiday

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's ailing leader remained out of sight Monday, missing another key chance—Korea's Thanksgiving holiday—to make a public appearance that could have put to rest mounting speculation about his health. Kim Jong Il suffered a stroke Aug. 14 and underwent emergency surgery performed with the help of five Chinese military doctors dispatched to Pyongyang at North Korea's request, Japan's Kyodo News agency reported from Beijing, citing unidentified Chinese officials. Kim, 66, still has trouble moving his limbs and will need a long period of rest and rehabilitation to recover, Kyodo cited the officials as saying. South Korean officials say they know Kim had a stroke but the Unification Ministry said Monday it could not confirm Kyodo's more detailed information. North Korea denies Kim is ill.

Malaysia's Anwar says he will soon seize power

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim pledged Monday to oust Malaysia's entrenched government and brazenly urged the prime minister to hand over power "smoothly and peacefully." As he addressed a rally of some 10,000 supporters, however, Anwar said he would not meet a self-imposed Tuesday deadline to topple the government through parliamentary defections and instead hoped to negotiate a transition. "We do not want to force it. We do not want to go to (the capital) Putrajaya and drag them down. Therefore, we want to negotiate with the prime minister and ask him, 'Do you want one week, do you want two weeks?'" Anwar said.

Thai protesters sit tight while govt bickers

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Protesters occupying the grounds of the prime minister's compound plan to truck in sand to cover up the rain-fed muck they've been living in for weeks, but there's no such easy solution to the political mess they've created in Thailand. While demonstrators from the People's Alliance for Democracy were putting up scaffolding Monday to help to shelter themselves, their opponents from the ruling People's Power Party were tearing themselves apart. Dissident factions threatened not to support a consensus choice to become the next prime minister, although the party's executives earlier chose acting Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, 61, to be their candidate when Parliament meets Wednesday. A dissolution of Parliament to hold new elections is an option. The previous prime minister, Samak Sundaravej, was forced from office last week when a court ruled he broke the law by accepting money to host a TV cooking show after he took office.

World

Bombs kill at least 35, Iraqis say

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber blew herself up Monday among police officers who were celebrating the release of a comrade from U.S. custody, killing at least 22 people, Iraqi officials said. Separate bombings in Iraq killed 13 other people.

The suicide attack happened in Diyala, a province northeast of Baghdad where Sunni insurgents have carried out persistent attacks despite security gains elsewhere in the country. The female bomber targeted the home of a police commissioner who had been detained by American troops for allegedly cooperating with the Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia.

Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim al-Rubaie, the military commander in Diyala, said most of the 22 fatalities were police and that 33 people were wounded in the evening attack in Balad Ruz, 45 miles northeast of Baghdad. Two police captains and three lieutenant colonels were among the dead, said a police officer who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

The U.S. military confirmed that the bomber was a woman but gave a lower casualty toll, saying 17 Iraqis were killed, including the city's deputy chief of police, and eight other people were wounded.

Al-Rubaie said police had gathered to celebrate Iftar, the meal that breaks the sunrise-to-sunset fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, with Adnan Shukr al-Timimi, a police commissioner who was held at U.S.-run Camp Bucca, a detention center in southern Iraq. Al-Timimi, who had invited friends and relatives to a banquet, and his parents and two children were among the dead, a hospital official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Al-Rubaie also said the attacker was a woman. Insurgents are increasingly turning to women for suicide attacks because they can conceal explosives more easily under long garments and evade searches by male security guards, and possibly because the male pool of suicide recruits is smaller than in the early days of the war.

AP

Iraqi woman reacts as she walks past damage made by two car bombs in a central commercial district of Karrada in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Sept. 15. 2008.

NATO envoys: Russia must leave Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Diplomats from every NATO nation demanded immediate Russian withdrawal from Georgia in a show of support from the U.S. ally's capital on Monday that made no promise of faster membership in the alliance.

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer led 26 envoys in calling on Moscow to comply with a cease-fire deal and withdraw to positions its forces held before fighting with Georgia erupted Aug. 7.

But the diplomats offered no positive response to Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili's call to "accelerate" Georgia's integration into NATO. Saakashvili said Russia's invasion should not keep his country out of its "proper and rightful home" in the alliance.

NATO decided in April not to offer Georgia the first step toward membership, while assuring the country that it would eventually join. De Hoop Scheffer said those decisions stand.

He offered no timetable, saying Monday's visit would help "assess how to further enhance the NATO-Georgia partnership." Georgia, where thousands of Russian troops are deployed, must move forward with democratic reforms despite the difficulties caused by the war, he stressed.

The NATO ambassadors' trip to Georgia was scheduled long ago.

But by sending troops deep into Georgia and recognizing the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent nations, the Kremlin raised the stakes in the struggle with the West for regional influence, and underscored its determination to halt NATO's expansion.

The unresolved status of South Ossetia and Abkhazia has always given alliance members pause about accepting Georgia. The war and its aftermath have deepened NATO's predicament. Russia's grip on the separatist regions raises questions about how to handle the membership aspirations of a country with large chunks of territory beyond its control.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nazi hunter wants US, Austrian, Hungarian suspects

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—A leading Nazi hunter urged Serbia on Monday to seek the extradition of three World War II war-crimes suspects and blasted Austria and Hungary for failing to help bring two of them to justice. Efraim Zuroff, head of the Israeli branch of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said at a news conference with Serbian officials that he was helping them provide evidence against Peter Egner, who lives in the United States, Milivoj Asner, who lives in Austria, and Sandor Kepiro of Hungary. Egner allegedly served in a Nazi unit that killed 17,000 civilians in Serbia during World War II. Asner is wanted for WWII atrocities against Serbs, Jews and Gypsies in Croatia.

Pope: Accept death 'at the hour chosen by God'

LOURDES, France (AP)—People must accept death at "the hour chosen by God," Pope Benedict XVI told ailing pilgrims Monday in an anti-euthanasia message at Lourdes, the shrine that draws the desperate, sick and dying. At the chilly open-air service outside the sanctuary reputed for its curative spring water, some faithful lay on gurneys, tucked into quilts and comforters. A few breathed with oxygen tanks. The 81-year-old pontiff administered the sacrament of the sick to 10 people, most in wheelchairs, gently anointing their foreheads and palms with oil. While several European countries permit euthanasia, the Vatican vehemently maintains that life must continue to its natural end. The pope said in his homily that the ill should pray to find "the grace to accept, without fear or bitterness, to leave this world at the hour chosen by God."

Campus Life

States tap foreign teachers to fill shortages

By GARRY MITCHELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAY MINETTE, Alabama (AP)—The school system in coastal Baldwin County—60 miles by 25 miles (97 kilometers by 40 kilometers) of Alabama farmland framed on two sides by waterfront towns—was short on teachers, especially in courses such as math and science.

So short, in fact, that district officials went around the world last year, with expenses paid by a teacher recruiting firm, and brought back Michel Olalo of Manila and 11 other Filipinos to teach along the shores of the Gulf Coast and Mobile Bay and in the communities in between.

That raised some eyebrows in Baldwin County, where nine out of 10 people are white, just one in 50 is foreign-born and, as the county's teacher recruiter Tom Sisk noted recently, "Many of our children will never travel outside the United States."

Yet school administrators throughout the U.S. are plucking from an abundance of skilled international teachers, a burgeoning import that critics call shortsighted but educators here and abroad say meets the needs of students and qualified candidates.

"All my friends were applying," said Olalo, hired through San Mateo, California-based Avenida International Consultants to teach physics. "I thought, why don't I try it? Luckily, when I was lined up for an interview, it was people from Baldwin County."

The U.S. Department of Education doesn't monitor how many foreigners are working in American classrooms, spokeswoman Elissa Leonard said, but a federal survey released in May confirmed the dearth of math and science teachers, chiefly due to retirement by baby boomers.

As far back as five years ago, the National Education Association estimated that up to 10,000 foreigners already were teaching U.S. students in primary and secondary schools, mainly to fill vacancies in math, science, foreign languages and special education.

AP

Physics teacher Michel Olalo, of Manila, Philippines, finishes up paperwork at the end of the school day during her summer school class at Foley High School Monday June 16, 2008 in Foley, Ala.

The largest single sponsor of foreign teachers, according to the NEA, is Chapel Hill, North Carolina-based Visiting International Faculty, which claims it has 1,500 teachers from more than 55 countries in districts in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and California. The firm has placed teachers mostly in the South as it branches out from its Chapel Hill base, spokeswoman Leslie Maxwell said.

Critics view the international teacher market as a quick fix that can frustrate students and foreign hires alike.

If foreign teachers "are recruited into schools and communities lacking the kinds of support that all new teachers need, they may not stay," said David Haselkorn, policy research director at the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey, which recruits recent college graduates with education degrees and professionals from certain fields to teach in low-income communities.

Janet Lipscomb, president of the Parent Teacher Organization at Foley High in Baldwin County, said the students liked the Filipino teachers but some experienced a "communication gap," particularly when students used slang.

"The students cut up a lot. Some of that may have been misinterpreted by the teachers," said Lipscomb, a substitute teacher at the high school.

But Chris Fredrick, an 11-year-old at Cedar Grove Middle School in Decatur, Georgia, enjoys the earth science class taught by Uzma Masood, who was recruited by Georgia-based In-talage Inc. to come from Hyderabad, India.

"I like her. I like what we do in class. We're active in the class. We're not just sitting there all day," he said.

On a recent school day, students were highly responsive to Masood as she constantly walked around the classroom and encouraged students instead of just lecturing them.

"I like her class because sometimes if we don't understand something she'll break it down for us," said Pedruna Adams, also 11.

Masood, 32, wearing black pin-stripe pants, a turquoise Indian tunic and a black hijab on her head, spoke with an accent as she conducted activities that got students up out of their seats in the classroom, which looked typical for 6th grade. Big block letters cut out of blue construction paper were across the front, above the white board: EXPLORE THE WORLD THROUGH SCIENCE.

"I always introduce myself on the first day and tell them I'm from a different country and explain that I have an accent and they can ask me if they don't understand something. Usually within two or three days they get used to it and don't have any problems," Masood said.

"She is a wonderful teacher," said Agnes Flanagan, principal of the school. "I don't understand some people's philosophy of not wanting visiting teachers. I wouldn't mind having a building full of them. She's very dynamic and the kids love her."

Philippine Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the Philippine teachers hired for U.S. classrooms are those most proficient in English and who look at America as "a second home ... it's not like a strange place."

"These teachers, they all grew up reading American books," he said.

Proponents note that international teachers typically have a higher level of subject expertise in the classroom and can expose young students to a new culture.

Also, the pool of candidates overseas is much bigger than locally.

"We interviewed 180 applicants in five days" in Manila, Sisk said. In the U.S., he did not meet that many candidates on visits to 20 or 30 colleges.

ON THE NET

National Education Association: http://www.nea.org/teachershortage
Visiting International Faculty: http://www.vif.com
Avenida International Consultants: http://www.ligayaavenida.com
Woodrow Wilson Foundation: http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships/index.php
Foreign teachers in California schools: http://tinyurl.com/55f5rt

Treasury to educate children about credit

By DAVID COLKER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

See Sally. See Sally run from the bank. Run, Sally, run.

Amid one of the worst banking crises in decades, the U.S. Treasury Department on Tuesday will launch a long-planned program to teach young Americans about credit and other financial matters.

The theme of the campaign: "Don't let your credit put you in a bad place."

Don Iannicola, the department's deputy assistant secretary for financial education, tried to put the best face on the timing of the announcement.

"The events unfolding in the last few months can be seen as a national teachable moment," Iannicola said.

Planning for the program, which cost about $750,000, began last year. Iannicola said Treasury officials didn't consider delaying the launch.

"There is no bad time for people to learn about their money and their credit," he said.

Iannicola acknowledged that some might question the timing of rolling out a Treasury-sponsored education program when slack government oversight was getting some of the blame for the mortgage market meltdown that begat the credit crunch that led to Monday's financial fallout.

"Education and regulation are not at odds with each other," he said.

The program will consist of television and radio spots, Web banners and a site (www.controlyourcredit.gov) that has an interactive game called "The Bad Credit Hotel."

This is a test: ACT or SAT?

By GALE HOLLAND
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Thomas Chun took the SAT college entrance exam twice, scoring well within qualifying range for prestigious research universities, if hundreds of points short of a top mark.

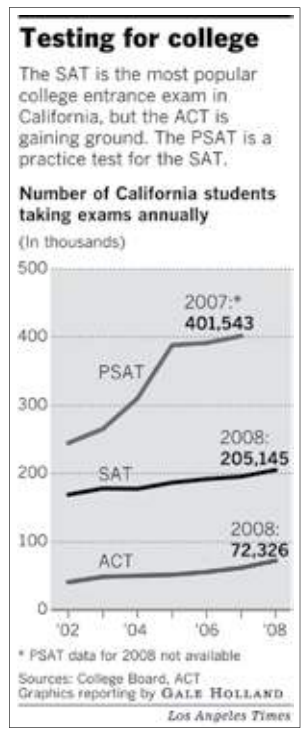
Still, Chun believed his score, 2,090 out of a possible 2400, might not stand up against those of other whiz kids at his selective magnet school, Whitney High in Cerritos, Calif., southeast of downtown Los Angeles. So he took the other admissions test, the ACT. And to his happy surprise, he scored a perfect 36.

"I was never a big fan of the SAT," said Chun, 17, who since the sixth grade has dreamed of being a Yale man. "The ACT tests you on what you learned in high school rather than what you learned in test prep academy."

The ACT was once the poor stepsister to the SAT, strong in the Midwest and South but less established on the East and West coasts. Now, however, the ACT is growing faster than its rival, not only nationally but in SAT strongholds including California, where 50 percent more students in the class of 2008 took the ACT than their 2004 counterparts. Nationwide, the ACT was taken by 1.4 million students in the 2008 class, compared to 1.5 million who took the SAT, according to the test companies.

It is not clear why the ACT, which has competed against the older SAT since 1959, is surging now. There is no evidence that one test is easier or harder than the other, and most colleges consider them equally valid. The SAT has been battered by questions of elitism and cultural bias, and recent revisions to it—prompted by criticism from the University of California—have stirred uncertainty that sent some students scrambling for an alternative, several experts said.

In addition, ACT precursor tests are being marketed to younger and younger students, and the test can be less expensive than the SAT. In California, many students appear to use the ACT as a backup, to game the increasingly fierce college admissions competition. At the University of California, which accepts either test, one-third of autumn freshman also submitted ACT scores, up from 28 percent a year before. California State University schools accept the SAT or the ACT from students who are required to submit test scores.



"But we are still an 'SAT state' with 97.0 percent of all test takers taking the SAT (or a combination of SAT/ACT)," Susan A. Wilbur, UC director of undergraduate admissions, said in an e-mail.

"Our national obsession with high-stakes testing induces students to hedge their bets by taking both tests, and multiple times," said Barmak Nassirian, associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

"Instead of competing with each other in a zero-sum manner, both test companies benefit from admission anxieties," he said.

Despite its growth, the ACT still lags its rival in California, with 72,000 test-takers for the 2008 class compared to the SAT's 205,000. For some students, the ACT seems a bit, well, lame.

"The ACT, it's an out there test for me," said Whitney High senior Milly Shah. "And 36 seems like a weird number."

At John Marshall High School near downtown L.A., where it seems virtually every student wants to go to the University of California, Los Angeles, the ACT is the underdog, some students said.

"It's like in sports, football or water polo: the SAT is football and the ACT is water polo," said Tina Bui, 17.

But Campbell Hall, a private school in North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley recommends that students take both the SAT and the ACT in junior year to set a "benchmark," said college counselor John M. Corona. Most students take a test preparation class and at least one of the exams again senior year, he said. Senior Jack Acland, 17, said he was leaning toward the SAT, but followed the recommendation to take both tests.

"I thought I would do better on the SAT, but I did slightly better on the ACT," he said.

Bui also plans to take the ACT and the SAT—two times each. "Teachers say take it, take it, take it as many times as you can," said Bui.

Chun took eight tests in his junior year: two SATs, three AP tests, two SAT subject tests (all owned by College Board) and the ACT. He also took the state standards tests.

Life & Style

A 'little book' bursting with the write ideas

By JONATHAN YARDLEY
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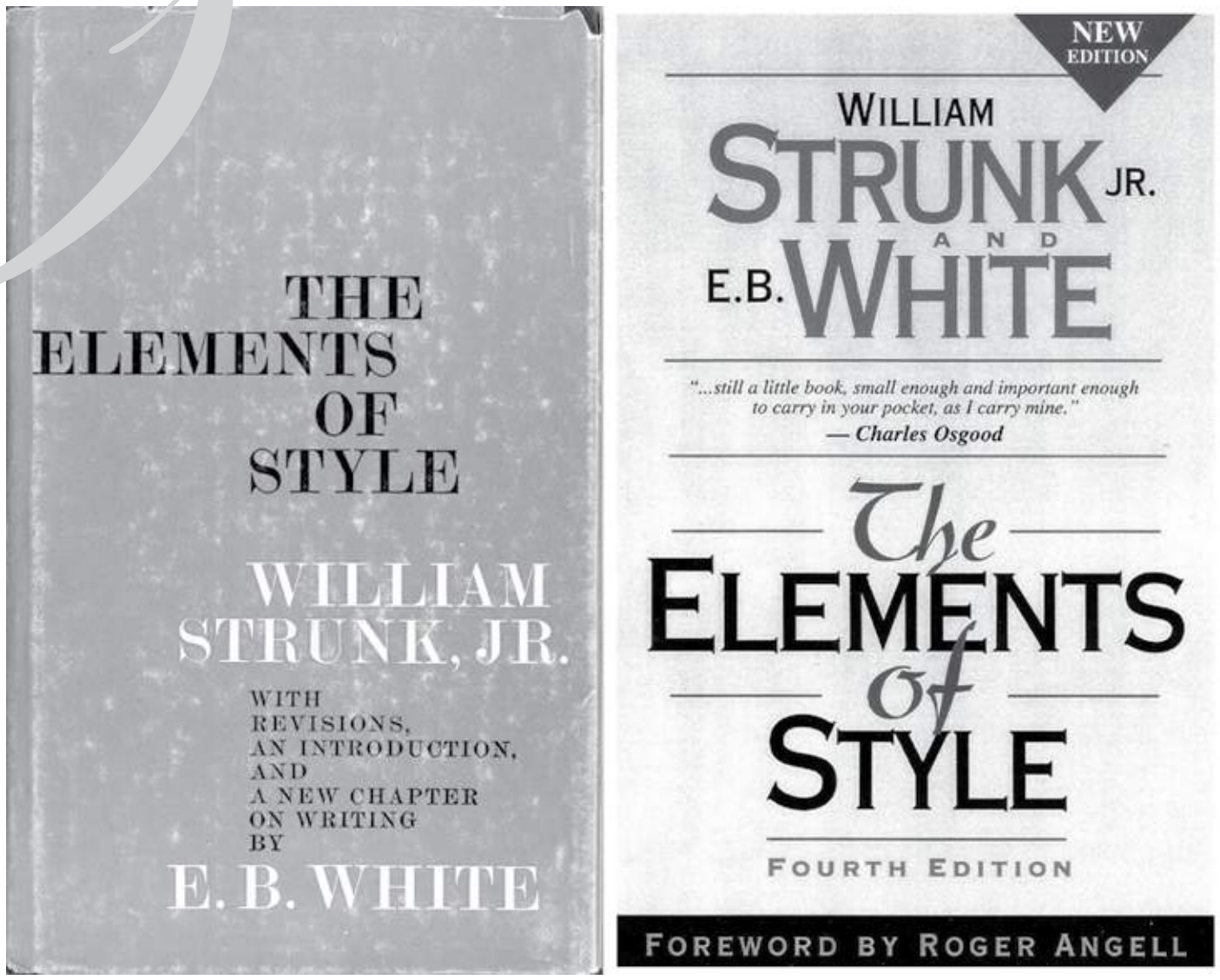
Editor's Note: An occasional series in which The Post's book critic reconsiders notable and/or neglected books from the past.


THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE
WILLIAM STRUNK, JR.
WITH REVISIONS, AN INTRODUCTION, AND A NEW CHAPTER ON WRITING BY
E.B. WHITE
NEW EDITION
WILLIAM STRUNK JR.
AND
E.B. WHITE
"...still a little book, small enough and important enough to carry in your pocket, as I carry mine."
— Charles Osgood
The ELEMENTS of STYLE
FOURTH EDITION
FOREWORD BY ROGER ANGELL

"The Elements of Style" has been a constant companion for millions of people, most of whom know it simply as "Strunk and White." The author's 1959 copy of "Elements," left, and a 1999 edition with an additional introduction.

THE WASHINGTON POST

One of the never-ending frustrations of my otherwise enjoyable half-century newspaper career has been what newspapers call "style." Newspapers have many good qualities, but "style" most certainly is not among them. Newspaper "style" consists mainly of ungrammatical, unlovely attempts to compress as much information as possible into as little space as possible. Thus instead of the elegant "Senator Nonesuch, Republican of Transylvania," we are required to write, "Sen. Nonesuch, R-Tr."; instead of "Rockville, Maryland," we must suffer with "Rockville, Md."; and poor "William Strunk, Jr.," must sacrifice his comma and become "William Strunk Jr."

That would not have sat well with William Strunk, Jr., who on Page 3 of his immortal "The Elements of Style" writes: "The abbreviations etc. and jr. are parenthetic and are always to be so regarded," as in (the example is his), "James Wright, Jr." This is the same William Strunk, Jr., who two pages earlier writes, "In a series of three or more terms with a single conjunction, use a comma after each term except the last," as in "red, white, and blue," this second comma being "often referred to as the 'serial' comma," except in newspaper offices, where it is often referred to as the "space-eating" comma.

I have been a Strunkaholic for almost as long as I have been a journalist, though no doubt there have been times when one would never have known it from my prose. "The Elements of Style, With Revisions, an Introduction, and a New Chapter on Writing by E.B. White," was published in 1959, two years after White had written an article in the New Yorker about this privately published (in 1918) textbook "I had used when I was a student at Cornell." Editors at Macmillan immediately decided they wanted to publish it, and contracted with White "to make revisions in the text and write a chapter on style," not newspaper style, needless to say, but real style, of which White was a master.

When what Strunk "sardonically and with secret pride" called "the little book" made its public appearance, I was at Chapel Hill, pretending to be a college student but actually working full time on the university newspaper, the Daily Tar Heel. I must have rushed out to get a copy, because my heavily worn little hardcover is a first edition with a price of (!) one dollar. The book has accompanied me to Washington, New York, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Florida, Baltimore and finally back to Washington, and has been my constant companion.

Constant companion

In the half-century of its public life "the little book" has been a constant companion for millions of people, most of whom know it simply as "Strunk and White." It is scarcely so encyclopedic as H.W. Fowler's "A Dictionary of Modern English Usage" (1926, revised 1965 by Sir Ernest Gowers) but it is distinctly and distinctively American, and its brevity renders it both portable and accessible.

Strunk (1869-1946) spent his entire teaching career at Cornell and was little known beyond the campus. White describes him as "a memorable man, friendly and funny." He "scorned the vague, the tame, the colorless, the irresolute. He felt it was worse to be irresolute than to be wrong." In his 46 years at Cornell he seems to have been widely respected, even loved, yet his book "passed into disuse" not long after his death and probably would have vanished for good had not someone purloined one of two copies in the Cornell library and mailed it to White, who "had not laid eyes on it in thirty-eight years, and...was delighted to study it again and rediscover its rich deposits of gold."

> *Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.*

Of Strunk's many emphatic grammatical dicta, the most famous and surely the most frequently violated is, "Omit needless words." Strunk eschewed an exclamation point therein, but it cries out for one, for the exclamation point "is to be reserved for use after true exclamations or commands," which "Omit needless words!" most certainly is. The command is followed by what White calls "the masterly Strunkian elaboration of this noble theme," to wit:

"Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell."

Thus in Strunk's hands "the question as to whether" mercifully becomes simply "whether" and "he is a man who" becomes "he." Then follows the stricture to which almost no one pays attention: "An expression that is especially debilitating is the fact that. It should be revised out of every sentence in which it occurs." Expunge "owing to the fact that" and use "since," ditto for "I was unaware of the fact that," because "I was unaware that" is so much better.

Sloppy habits

Even the best writers can fall into sloppy habits. The price of being a Strunkaholic is eternal vigilance, for it is easy to let participial phrases dangle (my favorite, from Strunk, is, "Being in a dilapidated condition, I was able to buy the house very cheap"), to use "disinterested" when you mean "uninterested," to ignore the difference between "farther" ("distance") and "further" ("time or quantity"), to use "less" when you mean "fewer," to use a plural verb with "none," which "takes the singular verb," to confuse "that" and "which." A particular bugaboo of my own is the use of "like" for "as," which is now near-universal and is almost always wrong:

"The use of like for as has its defenders; they argue that any usage that achieves currency becomes valid automatically. This, they say, is the way the language is formed. It is and it isn't. An expression sometimes merely enjoys a vogue, much as an article of apparel does. Like has always been widely misused by the illiterate; lately it has been taken up by the knowing and the well-informed, who find it catchy, or liberating, and who use it as though they were slumming. If every word or device that achieved currency were immediately authenticated, simply on the grounds of popularity, the language would be as chaotic as a ball game with no foul lines. For the student, perhaps the most useful thing to know about like is that most carefully edited publications regard its use, before phrases and clauses, as simple error."

It was, of course, an advertisement that nailed the coffin on proper usage — "Winston tastes good like a cigarette should" — and, as White says in his essay, "the language of advertising enjoys an enormous circulation," hardly to the betterment of us all. This isn't to argue that the language shouldn't change. To the contrary, many new words that enter common usage from unlikely sources are useful and uniquely describe specific meanings; think, for example, of "geek" and "dis" and "spam," all of which I use with pleasure because they are, quite simply, good words. I shudder to think, though, of what Strunk and White would say about "author" and "reference" used as verbs, of "presently" used as a synonym for "currently" or "now." Et cetera. The language takes a daily beating, often from people who, as both Strunk and White point out, are more interested in appearing elegant and erudite than in actually being so, people who believe that pompous, inaccurate language is evidence of deep thought and noble purpose. The truth is the opposite. As White writes: "Avoid the elaborate, the pretentious, the coy, and the cute. Do not be tempted by a twenty-dollar word when there is a ten-center handy, ready and able." As both Strunk and White were aware, this is hard advice to follow, for it is much more difficult to be concise than to be verbose.

Pink Floyd member Richard Wright dies at age 65

LONDON (AP)—Richard Wright, a founding member of Pink Floyd, died Monday. He was 65.

The rock group's spokesman, Doug Wright, who's unrelated, said Wright died after a battle with cancer at his home in Britain. He said the band member's family did not want to give more details about his death.

Wright met Pink Floyd members Roger Waters and Nick Mason in college and joined their early band, Sigma 6. Along with the late Syd Barrett, the four formed Pink Floyd in 1965.

The group's jazz-infused rock and drug-laced multimedia "happenings" made them darlings of the London psychedelic scene, and their 1967 album, "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn," was a hit.

In the early days of Pink Floyd, Wright, along with Barrett, was seen as the group's dominant musical force. The London-born musician and son of a biochemist wrote songs and played the keyboard.

"Rick's keyboards were an integral part of the Pink Floyd sound," said Joe Boyd, a prominent record producer who worked with Pink Floyd early in its career.

The band released a series of commercially and critically successful albums including 1973's "The Dark Side of the Moon," which has sold more than 40 million copies. Wright wrote "The Great Gig in the Sky" and "Us and Them" for that album, and worked on the group's epic compositions such as "Atom Heart Mother," "Echoes" and "Shine on You Crazy Diamond."

But tensions grew among Waters, Wright and fellow band member David Gilmour. The tensions came to a head during the making of "The Wall" when Waters insisted Wright be fired. As a result, Wright was relegated to the status of session musician on the tour of "The Wall," and did not perform on Pink Floyd's 1983 album, "The Final Cut."

Wright formed a new band Zee with Dave Harris from the band Fashion, and released one album, "Identity," with Atlantic Records.

Waters left Pink Floyd in 1985 and Wright began recording with Mason and Gilmour again, releasing the albums "The Division Bell" and "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" as Pink Floyd. Wright also released the solo albums "Wet Dream" (1978) and "Broken China" (1996).

In July 2005, Wright, Waters, Mason and Gilmour reunited to perform at the "Live 8" charity concert in London - the first time in 25 years they had been onstage together.

Wright also worked on Gilmour's solo projects, most recently playing on the 2006 album "On an Island" and the accompanying world tour.

Gilmour paid tribute to Wright on Monday, saying his input was often forgotten.

"He was gentle, unassuming and private but his soulful voice and playing were vital, magical components of our most recognized Pink Floyd sound," he said. "I have never played with anyone quite like him."

AP

FILE ** In this file photo dated March 3, 1967, members of the rock band Pink Floyd, Roger Waters, left, Nick Mason, second from left, Syd Barrett, second from right, and Richard Wright, right, leap from the steps of EMI House in London.

Agatha Christie recordings recently discovered

LONDON (AP)—Mystery writer Agatha Christie can be heard musing about the origins of Jane Marple, one of her best-loved heroines, on recently discovered recordings, her grandson said Monday.

Mathew Prichard said he found a host of old tapes when cleaning out his grandmother's house several years ago, but could not play them until he fixed the obsolete machine on which they were recorded.

"Not being a technical person I didn't realize how modern technology can resurrect (the tapes)," Prichard told The Associated Press. He called the experience of hearing Christie's voice again "quite eerie."

Fans hoping for a posthumous mystery will be disappointed—the tapes served as raw material for Christie's autobiography and do not add much to what has already been written about her, Prichard said.

AP

In this 1963 file photo, mystery author Agatha Christie is shown in London.

They capture Christie speaking in a thin, deliberate voice. In an impeccably old-fashioned English accent, she describes the origins of the sleuth known to millions of readers worldwide as Miss Marple.

"Miss Marple insinuated herself so quietly into my life that I think I hardly noticed her arrival," she said, according to an excerpt of the recording carried on The Daily Telegraph newspaper's Web site. "An old spinster lady, living in a village, the sort of lady who would have been rather like some of my grandmother's cronies."

Christie, who died in 1976, said Miss Marple and her grandmother had in common an infallible instinct for calling out crooks and sniffing out conspiracy.

"'I shouldn't be surprised if so-and-so was going on,' my grandmother used to say, and although with no grounds for these assertions, that was exactly what was going on," Christie said.

Prichard said the recordings also covered Christie's trips to the Middle East and her honeymoon with her second husband, Max Mallowan. It was not clear when exactly the tapes were made, although Prichard said Christie often relied on dictation in the 1960s.

While the tapes have now been digitized, Prichard said he wanted to consult with his family before deciding whether to put more of the material in the public domain.

Will Tina Fey encore on 'SNL' as Sarah Palin?

NEW YORK (AP)—Never mind all those questions about who will win the election: The more pressing concern for many viewers is whether Tina Fey will return to play Gov. Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live."

The guest appearance by the show's former cast member and head writer was by all accounts a virtuoso impersonation and a viral hit. But Fey stars in NBC's weekly prime-time comedy "30 Rock," and it's unclear if she'll be moonlighting on "SNL" to skewer the Republican vice presidential candidate, to whom she bears a much-remarked-upon resemblance.

Fey—and the will-she-or-won't-she suspense that preceded her appearance—helped make NBC's "Saturday Night Live" a ratings smash in its season kickoff (which was hosted by Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps).

Then the 5 1/2-minute segment pairing Fey with cast-member Amy Poehler (as Sen. Hillary Clinton) also has become a global Internet sensation.

The voters, um, viewers seemed to have spoken. In preliminary numbers measuring the nation's major cities, "SNL's" 34th-season premiere logged a 7.4 rating and 18 percent share of audience—the largest viewership for a "SNL" season debut since 2001, and up 64 percent from last year's opener, according to Nielsen Media Research.

AP

In this photo provided by NBC, actress Tina Fey, left, plays Governor Sarah Palin, and actress Amy Poehler plays Senator Hillary Clinton on "Saturday Night Live" Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008 in New York.

(For this survey, a ratings point represents approximately 780,000 households. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.)

With the Alaska governor poised to be a prominent part of the political race through Election Day as Sen. John McCain's running mate, and possibly serving as vice president after that, there's little doubt she'll be spoofed again by "SNL," which historically has had particular relevance in its political parodies.

Will Fey be back in the role?

"We are taking it day-by-day," said "SNL" spokesman Marc Liepis on Monday.

Could she be back as soon as this Saturday's show?

"We don't even have a script written yet," Liepis replied.

Under any circumstances, it was unlikely Fey would make an encore appearance on this week's "SNL," in as much as the New York-based show will air the night before Sunday's Emmy broadcast, live from Los Angeles. With "30 Rock" having snagged several nominations, including Fey as best comic actress, she is expected to be on hand for those festivities.

For the long term, "SNL" executive producer Lorne Michaels reportedly has an as-yet-undisclosed "Plan B" and "Plan C" for a Palin impersonator, in lieu of Fey.

In the meantime, as Liepis noted, "She has a day job."

'Total Request Live' ending in November

NEW YORK (AP)—Start the countdown clock on MTV's countdown era: "Total Request Live" will soon shut down after 10 years on the air.

The music video show will conclude in a two-hour special on a Saturday afternoon in November, Dave Sirulnick, executive producer of "TRL," said Monday. He stressed that the show wasn't ending for good, but felt now was the right time to give it a break after an unprecedented run on the cable music channel.

"We want to close this era of `TRL' in a big celebratory way, and 10 is a great number," Sirulnick said. "And 10 is the number that `TRL' counted down every single day for 10 years, and we hit this 10th (anniversary) and we thought, `You know what? This feels like the right time and let's celebrate it and let's reward it. And let's let it have a little bit of a rest for a minute.' Let it catch its breath! Been working hard - for 10 years!"

"TRL" debuted in September 1998 and became the splashy center of the teen pop music scene with Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys, N'Sync and other acts. From its heydey until 2008, it's been a destination for musicians, movie stars and celebrities promoting their new music, movies and other projects.

Sirulnick said "TRL" - which airs weekday afternoons from MTV's Times Square studio - lost some luster as it aged. It peaked in 1999 with 757,000 viewers tuning in daily, according to Nielsen Media Research.

"It becomes more of a mainstay and more of an institution than - pardon the pun - the new kid on the block," Sirulnick said.

For the finale, Sirulnick said he hopes to celebrate with many of the "folks who helped make `TRL' what it is - whether that's Justin (Timberlake) and his guys in N'Sync, the Backstreet Boys, Britney, Eminem - I think we would love to see all of them here." That includes former host Carson Daly.

In a statement, Eminem said: "I'm going to miss `TRL.' ... Where else will I be able to start feuds, defend my honor vigorously and act like an angry teenager on national TV? Oh wait ... The VMAs!"

MTV found a replacement of sorts with "FNMTV." The show debuted over the summer in a 15-episode run hosted by Pete Wentz, bassist for rock band Fall Out Boy. Taped in Los Angeles, it aired Friday nights and televised exclusive music videos and performances by such diverse acts as Slipknot and the Jonas Brothers.

MTV said it was bringing "FNMTV" back for another run in mid-November. Like last time, there will be no video countdown with the 10 viewer favorites.

AP

Actor Joshua Jackson talks with MTV VJ Lyndsey Rodrigues on MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York on Monday, Sept. 8, 2008.

Emmy Awards show to try on looks from TV's past

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Friendly ghosts from television's past will bring their ethereal charm to the 60th Emmy Awards.

Sunday's ceremony will feature surprise cast reunions, famous lines ("Marcia, Marcia, Marcia!") and beloved moments from the last six decades of television. Even the Nokia Theater stage will be getting into the act, dressing up as sets from iconic shows past and present, executive producer Ken Ehrlich told The Associated Press.

"We're paying homage to the heritage of the medium and the history, but we've tried to do it in a very contemporary way," he said. "We want to show the through line from what television has meant to us to what it is now."

The Emmy stage will masquerade as sets from "The Simpsons," "Mash" and "Desperate Housewives," among others, Ehrlich said.

"I'm going to marry some clips to each of the sets so you see them on the screen, they way you see them at home, and then you see them at the Nokia on our stage," he said. "I think it's going to be fun."

Presenters and categories will also be pegged to the scenes, creating a connection between past and current stars and shows.

Ehrlich, who has produced dozens of Emmy and Grammy telecasts, said he usually shies away from themes "because I think they can limit you from time to time." But creating a show that celebrates the history of television suited him just fine: "It really gave us opportunities to salute the medium," he said.

It also gives him a chance to reconnect with some of his favorite shows and stars: "I love popular culture," he said. "Especially (to work) with people you admire and respect - they've meant so much to so many people over the years."

The veteran producer also enjoys planning surprises for viewers. Prodded for details, he revealed that Josh Groban will perform on the program, and a popular TV cast that split more than a decade ago will reunite.

Charlie Sheen, Helen Mirren, Jeremy Piven and Kristin Chenoweth will help open the show by delivering popular TV catch phrases. (Guess who says, "Good morning, angels.") And Ehrlich hints that there will be several can't-miss moments.

"(Viewers) will want to see the reality-show hosts category," he said. "It's one of the most interesting ones on the show. It's not what you're expecting."

Dane Cook tries again to cook on the big screen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Dane Cook was 3, he was attacked—and almost killed, he says—by a German shepherd. Beneath his hair is a zigzagging scar that became etched into his cranium after receiving nearly 80 stitches. Following the disclosure of this "fun fact," as he coyly calls it, the actor-comedian uses the opportunity to tell a joke.

"Hopefully, someday, I'll play a James Bond villain," he says. "I'll shave my head, so you can see all the ravines."

Such a role would probably have more bite than Cook's previous efforts on the big screen. Like as Dennis Rodman's wisecracking sidekick in the forgettable 1999 action flick "Simon Sez." Or as a slacker stockboy who falls for a big-eared cashier played by Jessica Simpson in the zany 2006 romantic comedy "Employee of the Month." And even as Jessica Alba's cursed love interest in the 2007 sex romp "Good Luck Chuck."

These days, instead of a German shepherd, it's film critics who chomp at Cook. The 36-year-old supercomedian most famous—or infamous, depending on who you ask—for gurgling cultural insights and sexually charged material in front of sold-out crowds has consistently been dubbed unfunny by movie critics, despite his continued success as standup comedian.

Other than a serious turn as a wannabe serial killer in the 2007 thriller "Mr. Brooks" starring Kevin Costner, Cook's attempts to sidestep from the stage to screen have been poorly received. Cook is aware of such shortcomings, referring to his filmography as a "highlight reel."

"I don't believe I watch any of my previous comedies and say, as a complete story, I'm interested in watching this from beginning, middle to end," Cook says during an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel.

AP

Actor Dane Cook poses for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008.

That may change with his latest effort, the R-rated romantic comedy "My Best Friend's Girl," which opens Sept. 19.

"This is the one where I look at it and think there's a character and a real evolution with this guy," he says.

Cook hopes this movie will be the one to conclusively bring the cream of his comedy routine to the big screen. That doesn't mean Cook is in search of critical acclaim. He's still more interested in the opinions of his 2 million MySpace friends and counting than from the thrashing jaws of film critics.

"With '(Good Luck) Chuck' or 'Employee of the Month,' I was playing the levelheaded middle, carrying the film at the center with a lot of craziness going on around me," says Cook, looking casual in jeans and a white T-shirt. "I finally wanted an opportunity to take some of the elements of my standup and mix it together with a fun story."

In the film, Cook plays Tank Turner, an air purifier call-center supervisor by day, anti-Cupid by night. He's a suave emotional terrorist for hire by freshly dumped guys. For a fee, Tank will subject their ex-girlfriends to the worst date of their lives in hopes they go running back to their respective boyfriends. They usually do.

While this badboy role most closely resembles Cook's on-stage antics, he's quick to point out that the goofball who gleefully recounts one-night-stands in comedy clubs isn't really him. And neither is Tank. Cook says he based much of the character on his best friend, comedian Robert Kelly, as well as Johnny Cash and Brain from "Pinky and the Brain."

"I'm much more introverted and shy, contrary to popular belief," he says. "Tank is fearless and always on the cusp, taking lewd and lascivious behavior to a whole other level, but he has a heart of gold because he's ultimately doing this to give people a second chance.

Tank's game changes when he meets—all together now—his best friend's girl, who gnaws through Tank's bravado after a drunken tryst. The best friend is played by Jason Biggs from the "American Pie" films. Kate Hudson from "Fool's Gold" serves as the girl. Alec Baldwin also portrays Tank's lecherous father in a handful of scenes.

"I definitely like an ensemble like this more," says Cook. "I love that I got to work with Alec, Kate and Jason on this movie. These people bring a high caliber of talent to the table. I frequently get to live that writer-director-actor role as a comedian, so I crave different kinds of opportunities when I'm not doing standup."

To prepare for steamy kissing scenes with bombshell leading ladies such as Hudson, Alba and Simpson, Cook says he's developed a tradition. Before production begins, he nonchalantly asks his co-stars what's their favorite flavor of gum or mint. Hudson's pick? Lifesavers Pep-o-Mint. Stormy breath aside, such scenes still make Cook giddy.

"You tend to go back to how you felt when you were in high school," says Cook. "Even though you're professional actors, you come to those scenes wondering things like: Are you going to be mad if I kiss you? Do I put my hands on the small of your back or can I go lower? Is that too low? Can you draw a map of where I can touch you?"

Fox opens up about old flame: 'Nikita'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Fox has nothing to hide.

The candid 22-year-old "Transformers" star, who's currently engaged to actor Brian Austin Green, opened up to GQ about her love life, telling the magazine she was once in love with a female stripper. Fox, who appears on the October cover in a black bikini, said she was in the relationship when she was 18 and first living in Los Angeles alone.

"Well, that year my boyfriend broke up with me, and I decided—oh man, sorry, mommy!—that I was in love with this girl that worked at the Body Shop," said Fox. "I decided that I was going to get her to love me back, and I went out of my way to create a relationship with this girl, a stripper named Nikita."

Fox said Nikita would do "these beautiful slow dances to Aerosmith ballads." The actress also said she would bring the Russian stripper gifts and try to inspire her to quit her line of work.

Fox's publicist, Dominique Appel, confirmed the contents of the GQ report Monday.

Despite the brief relationship with a woman, Fox said she does not identify herself as gay.

"Look, I'm not a lesbian," said Fox. "I just think that all humans are born with the ability to be attracted to both sexes. I mean, I could see myself in a relationship with a girl—Olivia Wilde is so sexy she makes me want to strangle a mountain ox with my bare hands. She's mesmerizing. And lately I've been obsessed with Jenna Jameson, but ... oh boy."

Fox also defended Miley Cyrus and Vanessa Hudgens regarding their racy photo scandals and said that she doesn't like Disney because they take "these little girls, and they put them through entertainment school and teach them to sing and dance, and make them wear belly shirts, but they won't allow them to be their own people. It makes me sick."

In this June 1, 2008 file photo, actress Megan Fox arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

Current TV to broadcast 'tweets' during debates

NEW YORK (AP)—Current TV is handing over feedback on the upcoming presidential debates to those who make up so much of the network's programming: its audience.

During the debates, the network bent on viewer-created content will broadcast Twitter messages—or "tweets"—from viewers. In close to real time, Current will display comments on the screen while Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama face off.

It's an all the more interesting new kind of interactivity in political discourse given that Current was co-founded by former Vice President Al Gore. Joel Hyatt, CEO of Current, said the technique—dubbed "Hack the Debate"—was not Gore's idea, but he and Gore both share a dim view of post-debate punditry.

"He certainly shares the belief that the punditry aspect of the process has not been enriching to American democracy," said Hyatt. "We're trying to empower young adults to participate in the process, to have their voice heard, to join the conversation."

Hyatt lamented the limiting nature of debate coverage, populated by experts with axes to grind and predictable partisan arguments to make: "We want our audiences to take over the process," he said.

Comments will be filtered, but Hyatt claims they will only be filtered to suit broadcast standards.

The first presidential debate is planned for Sept. 26, with two more debates and a vice presidential debate to follow. Current, partnering with Twitter, will have a similar live stream on its Web site, Current.com.

Britney due to release album in December

AP

Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at Paramount Pictures Studio Lot on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears' second comeback is in full swing: She's due to release a new album in December, on her 27th birthday.

"Circus" is set for release Dec. 2, a little over a year after she released last November's "Blackout," which was perhaps her most critically acclaimed CD, but came during her infamous year of erratic behavior, rehab, custody battles and at least one hospitalization. She barely promoted it, and the album—though it was certified platinum—was one of her least successful.

But these days, Spears has been in the spotlight for all the right reasons. She won three MTV Video Music Awards for her clip "Piece of Me" and appeared on the Sept. 7 awards show looking fit and stunning, a reversal of her disheveled, widely panned appearance in 2007. She also drew praise for her guest appearances on CBS' "How I Met Your Mother."

Spears' life seems to have rebounded after her father, James Spears, went to court and took control of her personal and professional life as her conservator. She also resolved her custody battle with former husband Kevin Federline, with Federline retaining custody of their two young sons and Spears receiving visitation rights.

Among the producers on Spears' new CD are Nate "Danja" Hills and Max Martin, who produced some of her biggest hits, including her first, "Baby One More Time." The first single, "Womanizer," will be released to radio Sept. 22, her record label, Jive/Zomba, announced Monday.

George Takei marries longtime partner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Takei and his longtime partner, Brad Altman, have agreed to live long and prosper together.

Takei, 71, and Altman, 54, were married Sunday in a multicultural ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum that featured a Buddhist priest, Native American wedding bands, a Japanese Koto harp and a bagpipe procession.

The couple, both clad in white dinner jackets with black pants, made a grand entrance to the tune of "One Singular Sensation" from the Broadway musical "A Chorus Line." They stepped into a circle of yellow roses and lilies, where they shared a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and were wed by a Buddhist priest.

The couple, who have been together for 21 years, wrote their own vows.

Altman said that he had called Takei many things during their two decades together—"life partner, significant other"—but that their marriage represented "a dream come true for me."

"I can add 'my husband' to the list of things I call you," he said.

Takei called his longtime partner an "organized, detail-obsessed, punctuality-driven control freak."

"I'm easygoing with details, so we're a good fit," he said in the trademark baritone recognizable to all "Star Trek" and Howard Stern fans.

Lincoln Center to honor Tom Hanks in annual gala

NEW YORK (AP)—The Film Society of Lincoln Center will honor Tom Hanks in its annual gala tribute, citing the actor's talent of making "a good man compelling."

The two-time Academy Award winner will be feted April 27 at Alice Tully Hall, which is being renovated but scheduled to reopen Feb. 22. It will be the society's 36th annual gala, following last year's celebration of Meryl Streep.

"There are so few actors who have been able to make the struggle and drama of being a good man compelling," Kent Jones, the society's associate director of programming, said Monday. "With his talent, his presence, his versatility, his sense of humor, he has set a very high standard for his fellow actors."

The 52-year-old Hanks won best-actor Oscars for 1993's "Philadelphia" and 1994's "Forrest Gump."

In this March 10, 2008 file photo, actor Tom Hanks poses backstage at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in New York.

AP

Shy teen is determined to be more popular in high school

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 13-year-old girl who just entered the eighth grade. I have a few friends, but I often feel like I'm invisible. They never take the time to call me. I guess I could take the first step and call them, but I don't know what to say. I guess I'm a little shy.

I spent a long, miserable summer with no one to talk to. I want to change this before I start high school next year. I am noticing several cute guys in class. If I have so much trouble with my friendships with other girls, how am I ever going to get to know some of the guys I'm starting to like? How do I get them to notice me? I hate to think I'll just fade into the shadows. Can you help?

ALONE AND SHY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ALONE AND SHY: The skills you're asking about take practice, and it might be of some comfort to know that, according to my mail, a third of the population is also afflicted to some degree with shyness. The surest way to overcome shyness is to understand that most people have the same feelings of insecurity and fear of not being liked that you do.

Rather than concentrating on yourself, focus on building the other person's confidence and self-esteem. My mother used to say there are two kinds of people in this world: those who walk into a room and their attitude says, "Here I am!" And those who walk into a room and their attitude says, "There you are!" The there-you-are type is always the most popular.

Because you're shy, focus yourself on interacting with others in a safe environment. Break the ice by asking someone in your class about a homework assignment. If you can't do it face-to-face, then do it on the phone. Or if you walk into a room and don't know anyone, don't wait for someone to approach you. Select someone who looks lost, approach him—or her—and say, "Hi, my name is 'Emma,' and I don't know a soul here. Do you?" You won't be sorry. It's not being pushy. It's being friendly.

Another thought: No matter how you feel about yourself, everyone can be charming. Charm, in a nutshell, is putting the other person at ease and making her (or him) feel comfortable and important. The charming person makes the effort to make others feel good about themselves. Forming the habit of making others feel good will make YOU popular to be around.

These suggestions—and many others—are included in my booklet "How to Be Popular: You're Never Too Young or Too Old." It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

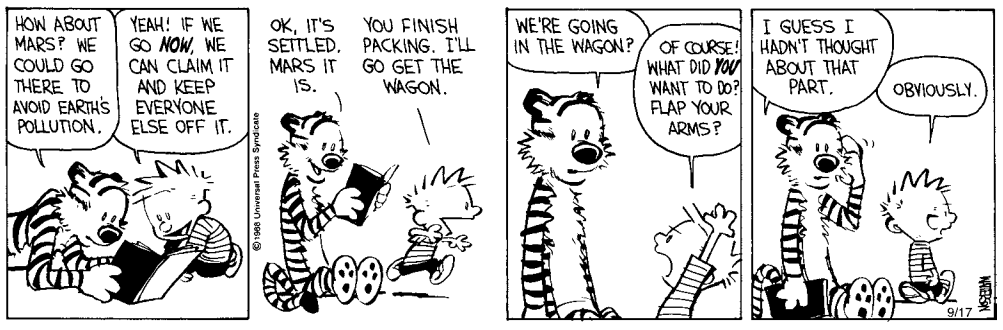
Remember, people who are interested in others are a cinch to be welcomed—and even sought out. So, even if you don't feel you are "perfect," or outgoing or talented, try being charming. It works like a charm.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

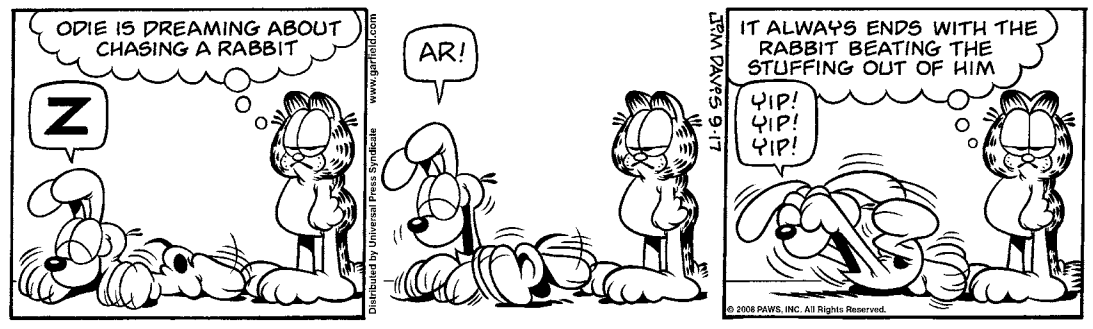
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW ABOUT MARS? WE COULD GO THERE TO AVOID EARTH'S POLLUTION.
YEAH! IF WE GO NOW, WE CAN CLAIM IT AND KEEP EVERYONE ELSE OFF IT.
OK, IT'S SETTLED. MARS IT IS.
YOU FINISH PACKING. I'LL GO GET THE WAGON.
WE'RE GOING IN THE WAGON?
OF COURSE! WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO? FLAP YOUR ARMS?
I GUESS I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT PART.
OBVIOUSLY.
9/17

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

9/17
OPRAH NEEDS TO HAVE GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS ON HER SHOW SO THEY CAN WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES.
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lone Ranger trademark
5 Tit for —
8 Big bothers
12 Killer whale
13 Miners' gathering
14 Unuttered "alas"
15 Muscle relaxant
17 Part of TLC
18 Wooden shoes
19 USNA freshmen
21 Lennon's love
22 One of the Jackson 5
23 Dancer Charisse
26 Help
28 Cockpit occupant
31 Raised platform
33 Prune
35 Farewell, in Florence
36 Make like Torvill and Dean
38 "A mouse!"
40 Weep
41 Actress Sorvino
43 Have a bug
45 Snuck a look
47 Nap
51 Mortgage datum
52 Oblique
54 Microwave, e.g.
55 A billion years
56 Dines
57 Twerp
58 Trench
59 Being (Lat.)

DOWN

1 1960s London subculturists
2 Met melody
3 Wound cover
4 Buzzing instrument
5 It's turned when plowing
6 Coach Parseghian
7 Lure
8 Spartan
9 Fiendish
10 Shrek is one
11 "Take Her, — Mine"
16 Sicilian spouter
20 Back talk
23 LPs' successors
24 Tibetan beast
25 Twice the radius
27 Buck's mate
29 Rowing tool
30 Plaything
32 Wages
34 Lowly one
37 Before
39 Chess piece
42 Venomous viper
44 Detached
45 Pt. of speech
46 Roof overhang
48 Responsibility
49 Uses a ray gun
50 Otherwise
53 Debt notice

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	C	Y	■	T	S	P	■	T	Y	P	E
A	L	O	E	■	O	W	L	■	H	O	A	R
S	T	O	W	A	W	A	Y	■	R	U	N	S
T	O	P	■	H	I	P	■	D	O	D	G	E
■	■	■	B	O	T	■	L	O	W	■	■	■
C	A	R	R	Y	■	M	A	C	A	Q	U	E
O	G	E	E	■	S	I	X	■	W	E	N	T
N	A	V	A	J	O	S	■	J	A	D	E	S
■	■	■	K	E	N	■	J	O	Y	■	■	■
N	O	M	A	D	■	E	E	L	■	S	E	T
A	V	O	W	■	C	A	S	T	A	W	A	Y
S	E	R	A	■	O	C	T	■	D	I	R	K
A	R	T	Y	■	O	H	S	■	O	G	L	E

Yesterday's answer 9-17

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wade Robson, 26; Mark Brunell, 38; Kyle Chandler, 43; Cassandra Peterson, 59

Happy Birthday: Hang on to your cash. Set up a strict budget so your money is not readily available for handouts. Focus on your own projects and creative vision. This is a year of productivity so put yourself first. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty for avoiding responsibilities that don't belong to you. Your numbers are 4, 13, 18, 21, 24, 30, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Taking on more than humanly possible will be your downfall. You can't be everything for everyone, neglecting your own needs or those of your family. Love is on the rise and there will be plenty to celebrate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't settle for less than what you want and deserve. An old friend will help you make the right choices by playing devil's advocate. A career change may be daunting but it's worth looking at what's available in your field. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Doors will open if you talk about your ideas, plans and intentions. Position yourself with creative people. Develop new friendships and you may find someone to partner with in a financial venture. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): The youngsters, friends and lovers in your life will cause some emotional upset if you get wrapped up in their melodramas. Realize that everyone around you, including yourself, is overreacting. Rely on an older relative to get you back on track. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make your home the place everyone congregates. Your space will give you the edge when it comes to group decisions. A creative change will inspire future projects. Love is evident, so talk about the way you feel. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't get sucked into a deal because of the people involved. If you have a little extra money to play with, you are better off putting it into something that will enhance you personally, professionally or mentally. Do things for yourself today. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your next move will determine your future, so take your time and think matters through. If you let your emotions or partners in your life decide for you, regrets will be the result. You are likely to underestimate what's involved—do your own research. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It's nice to be praised but don't let compliments skew your way of thinking, causing costly mistakes. A business associate will assume you have the answers. Ask questions even if what you need to know seems obvious. Let your past experience guide you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If someone thinks you are being misleading, it will cause a showdown. Use your charm and creative expression to bring people into your plans. Someone you meet at an event will make a difference to your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Protect your heart and your assets by not letting your emotions guide you. Travel will lead to dissatisfaction with your life, causing you to second-guess what you are doing. Don't choose someone else's lifestyle; get past your uncertainties. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Start thinking about your future and what you can do to improve your finances. A chance to make some extra money is apparent if you help someone out. Love and romance will lead to a decision about a relationship you are in. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Strive for professional and personal stability. Discard people and plans that are not a positive influence in your life. Your emotions will not lead you in the right direction, especially where partnerships are concerned. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a charmer, an entertainer and an engaging conversationalist. You know what to do to get ahead. You are smart, interesting and popular among your peers.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5				
	4		9		3			
	1	8				2		
	5						9	
9								1
3	8					7	2	6
	7		4	3			8	
	2		5	1			4	
	3	9	2	8	6	1	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	7	4	2	6	1	3	5
2	6	3	9	1	5	8	7	4
5	1	4	8	7	3	2	9	6
6	4	2	1	5	7	9	8	3
7	5	8	6	3	9	4	1	2
1	3	9	2	8	4	5	6	7
9	7	5	3	4	1	6	2	8
4	8	6	7	9	2	3	5	1
3	2	1	5	6	8	7	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CASTING A BROADWAY PLAY **Solution: 5 letters**

C	R	A	A	S	R	T	R	O	T	C	E	R	I	D
H	O	G	P	E	U	E	S	A	E	M	U	S	E	R
A	T	N	E	P	T	B	L	E	R	L	L	M	E	E
R	C	R	S	A	O	E	M	O	T	A	O	T	N	A
A	A	P	E	I	N	I	F	I	N	N	S	R	I	M
C	L	H	R	T	D	R	N	O	S	I	O	N	M	N
T	T	O	S	I	E	E	I	T	G	S	T	C	O	B
E	L	E	C	(P)	V	S	R	E	M	E	I	I	N	A
R	L	S	(I)	A	S	A	R	A	R	E	T	O	G	C
O	I	(C)	C	E	T	K	T	V	T	I	N	N	N	K
S	(K)	V	F	I	A	I	I	E	D	I	I	T	T	S
N	S	O	O	E	T	E	O	U	S	G	O	S	S	T
O	R	N	R	I	W	I	A	N	N	T	I	N	N	A
P	U	B	L	I	C	T	R	I	A	L	S	T	S	G
S	N	O	I	S	S	E	S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E

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Actor, Appointments, Audition, Backstage, Break, Career, Character, Considerations, Contest, Critics, Demonstration, Director, Dream, Interview, List, Location, Nominee, Perform, Pick, Private, Professional, Public, Register, Resume, Role, Schedule, Sessions, Singing, Skill, Sponsor, Submission, Talents, Tests, Theater, Trials, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Funds

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2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
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joins Mi

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-330
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
DOMONIQUE S. PALACIOS, and GLORIA S. PALACIOS,	:	
Defendants.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 735, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 26, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date:	**August 27, 2008**	**Closing Date:** Revised Closing Date	**September 25, 2008**
JVA No. 08-024 Location	Trades Technician (Mechanical and Operator) Power Generation, Saipan		
JVA No. 08-025 Location	Trades Foreperson (Mechanical and/or Electrical) Power Generation, Saipan		
Opening Date:	**September 12, 2008**	**Closing Date:**	**September 26, 2008**
JVA No. 08-026 Location	Trades Technician Water Division, Saipan		
JVA No. 08-027 Location	Trades Assistant Water Division, Saipan		

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Cowboys outlast Eagles 41-37 in wild, wacky game

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Terrell Owens caught the long pass in stride, cruised into the end zone and began showing off. With a shimmy in the direction of the Philadelphia Eagles, then some arm-flapping like he used to do when he scored for them, the final Monday night game at Texas Stadium was off to a wild start.

And it kept going from there. After seven lead changes, the game fittingly came to a close with a pass that included two laterals. Dallas stopped it, then walked away with a memorable 41-37 victory.

"We kept believing in each other," Cowboys coach Wade Phillips said. "Everyone said `Hey, hang in there, we're going to come out on top,' and we did!"

The wackiness included Tony Romo following one flub with another, leading to Philadelphia touchdowns 14 seconds apart; Eagles receiver DeSean Jackson losing an apparent touchdown because he flicked the ball away in celebration before he actually scored; and, ultimately, there was Donovan McNabb and Brian Westbrook wasting great performances by fumbling a fourth-quarter handoff exchange.

The game was decided cleanly after that turnover—a crisp Romo-led drive capped by Marion Barber's 1-yard touchdown run, lifting the Cowboys to a victory that certainly will be remembered by anyone who saw it.

For anyone who didn't, think back to Romo's big comeback in Buffalo on a Monday night last year, or to Romo's playoff goof in Seattle two years ago, or McNabb's great escape on a scramble three years ago or even Leon Lett's premature touchdown celebration in the January 1993 Super Bowl. This game had plays reminiscent of all those, most in the first half.

Philadelphia led 30-24 at halftime, then Dallas moved in front on a 17-yard touchdown catch by Barber midway through the third quarter. The Eagles came right back, with McNabb overcoming a second-and-21 by scooting out of two near collisions, avoiding an ankle tackle and zipping the football like a fast-pitch softball to Westbrook. The drive ended with Westbrook churning into the end zone for his third touchdown and a 37-31 lead.

AP

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) scores a touchdown as Philadelphia Eagles free safety Brian Dawkins (20) chases during the second quarter of an NFL football game Monday night, Sept. 15, 2008, in Irving, Texas.

Dallas got close with a 47-yard field goal from Nick Folk. Philadelphia was driving for a lead-padding score when McNabb put the ball on Westbrook's hip instead of in his belly. The Cowboys recovered at the 33 and Romo moved them to the go-ahead score, the big play being a 32-yard pass to Jason Witten.

The Eagles hardly threatened on their final two tries. Its final two-lateral play was shoved out of bounds.

Romo was 21-of-30 for 312 yards with three touchdowns, plus a lost fumble and an interception. Owens had 89 yards on three catches, two going for touchdowns. He had the early 72-yarder and a 4-yarder, although he didn't catch a pass in the second half. His first TD moved him into second place on the NFL's career receiving touchdown list; he finished at 132, well behind Jerry Rice's record of 197.

"It doesn't matter what they say about me now," Owens said. "The Lord has obviously blessed me with a lot of talent."

McNabb was 25-of-37 for 281 yards with a touchdown and four sacks, two on the final series. He also matched Ron Jaworski's club mark of 175 career TD passes.

Jackson caught six passes for 110 yards, becoming only the second player in NFL history to open his career with consecutive 100-yard games. The other was Don Looney, also for Philadelphia, in 1940.

Westbrook ran 18 times for 58 yards for two touchdowns, and caught six passes for 45 yards and another score.

The first half had a month's worth of big plays and momentum swings.

The first clue of the wackiness came on the opening kickoff, when Folk sent the ball out of bounds between the 1-yard line and the pylon.

Starting at their 40, the Eagles only needed a couple of first downs to kick a 34-yard field goal. Then Dallas answered with the 72-yard touchdown to Owens, the longest pass of Romo's career.

Philadelphia got another field goal to get within 7-6, but Dallas stretched the lead with a 98-yard kickoff return by rookie Felix Jones. When fellow rookie Mike Jenkins broke up a long pass, the old stadium was rocking.

Then it got quiet real fast.

Romo avoided a sack, then made the kind of "impulse play" former coach Bill Parcells hated, resulting in an interception. Westbrook scored on a short screen, cutting Dallas' lead to one.

The Cowboys fumbled the kickoff, recovered at the 5, then got pushed back by a false start. Then Romo lost the ball three times on the next snap. Philadelphia's Chris Gocong landed on it for a touchdown and the lead. Dallas came right back with another long kickoff return by Jones and another TD by Owens.

All this, and there were still 10 minutes left in the second quarter.

Next came Jackson flicking the ball behind him as he reached the end zone. The Cowboys challenged and, with all the extra cameras for a Monday night game, officials easily found an angle that showed him letting go too soon. Using similar logic to the controversial fumble-whistled-dead in the Broncos-Chargers game Sunday, the ball was put at the 1 and Westbrook scored on the next play.

The head-slapping part of Jackson's goof: He did it before. In a 2005 high school all-star game, Jackson spread his arms for a swan dive into the end zone, only to land at the 1.

McNabb kept the next drive alive by somehow breaking free from linebacker Greg Ellis and running for 10 yards. The play should end any doubts about his health and leg strength; McNabb was so thrilled, he came up smiling and dancing in front of some Cowboys fans. After another run that took five defenders to drop him, Philadelphia kicked a 22-yard field goal to go up 30-21 with 45 seconds left until halftime.

Plenty of time, in other words, for Romo to hit Witten for 42 yards and Folk to kick a 51-yard field goal.

NFL BRIEFS

NFL referee graded down after blown call in Denver

NEW YORK (AP)—Ed Hochuli's acknowledgement that he erred on a call late in Sunday's San Diego-Denver game will mean lower grades for one of the NFL's highest profile referees. "Officials are held accountable for their calls. They are graded on every play of every game," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Monday. "Ed has been an outstanding official for many years, but he will be marked down for this call. Under our evaluation system, an official's grades impact his status for potentially working the playoffs and ultimately whether or not he is retained." The play occurred with the Broncos at the Chargers 1-yard-line in the final minute. Denver quarterback Jay Cutler dropped back to pass, the ball slipped out of his hands, bounced off the grass and into the arms of San Diego linebacker Tim Dobbins. Hochuli ruled it an incomplete pass. Replay ruled it a fumble, but it was spotted at the 10-yard line, where the ball hit the ground, and given to Denver because the rules did not permit possession to be awarded to San Diego because the whistle had blown. Denver went on to score, convert a 2-point conversion and win 39-38. The play also is likely to be reviewed in the offseason by the league's competition committee, which normally reviews all controversial plays. "It's going to require a great deal of discussion," said Titans coach Jeff Fisher, the cochairman of the competition committee. "It's happened at times. It happened in a game against us at Indianapolis years ago. ... When the whistle blows and the pass is ruled incomplete, there's just no way currently that you can award possession."

Titans to stick with Kerry Collins as starting QB

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee Titans are sticking with veteran Kerry Collins as their starting quarterback as long as the team keeps winning. Coach Jeff Fisher said so Monday following the Titans' 24-7 windy win at Cincinnati. The Titans are 2-0 for the first time since 1999, when they made their lone Super Bowl appearance. "We're going to get Vince back, get his knee back, work with him, get him back involved in the offense," Fisher said. "But Kerry's going to go ahead and play for us until either he struggles or whatever else happens. Yeah, you saw by the way he played. In light of everything, it just makes sense to go with him." The Titans had not given any projection for Young's return from his sprained left knee except to rule him out against Cincinnati. Outside predictions have said Young, 18-11 since taking over as Tennessee's starter, could miss up to four weeks. Now that this move is official, it gives Young time to deal with his off-field issues after the team was given information that resulted in a call to police for help finding the quarterback, prompting a national discussion over his mental attitude. Asked if he had relayed the decision to Young, Fisher said he had not talked to the quarterback who a week ago postponed a scheduled MRI exam to determine the extent of his damaged knee. Young did visit the team's offices Monday and had treatment on his knee.

Steve Smith rejoins confident, unbeaten Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Steve Smith is back with the Carolina Panthers, just in time to join a team full of confidence after a surprising 2-0 start. The receiver's two-game suspension for breaking teammate Ken Lucas' nose in a training camp fight ended Monday morning. He was seen leaving Bank of America Stadium around noon carrying two cardboard boxes and joking with defensive tackle Damione Lewis. Smith did not speak to reporters. "He's ready to roll," coach John Fox said. "Obviously he's excited to be back and excited that we're 2-0." The Panthers insist they have gotten over the hard feelings created by Smith's sucker punch in camp. Smith slugged Lucas during a break in practice Aug. 1 while Lucas was on one knee with his helmet off. The next day the Panthers suspended their three-time Pro Bowl selection without pay for the first two regular-season games. Smith apologized to the team a day after that, and Lucas said he accepted his apology. Without their top playmaker, the Panthers stunned San Diego on Jake Delhomme's 14-yard touchdown pass to Dante Rosario as time expired in the season opener. On Sunday, the Panthers scored the game's final 17 points to knock off Chicago 20-17 for their first 2-0 start in five years. The Panthers have until Wednesday to clear a roster spot for Smith, who has been on the reserve-suspended list.

Red Sox beat Rays, pull within percentage points of 1st place

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Home run by home run, the surging Boston Red Sox pulled closer to first place in the American League East during a 13-5 victory over the division-leading Tampa Bay Rays and All-Star Scott Kazmir on Monday.

The defending World Series champions won for the first time in seven games at Tropicana Field this season, climbing within percentage points (.002) of the Rays for the first time in two months.

David Ortiz, who finished with four RBIs, hit a three-run homer in the first inning after Kazmir (11-7) threw nine straight balls to begin the game. Two batters later, Mike Lowell hit a solo shot for a 4-0 lead.

Jason Bay and Jason Varitek homered in the fourth off Kazmir. Kevin Youkilis hit his 26th homer, a two-run blast in the fourth, and added a RBI double in the sixth, both off Mitch Talbot. Jacoby Ellsbury also homered off Talbot in the fifth.

The Red Sox added seven more runs in the fourth, helping Daisuke Matsuzaka (17-2) become the first Japanese-born pitcher to win 17 games in a season. Hideo Nomo won 16 games for the Los Angeles Dodgers three times (1996, 2002, 2003).

AP

Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz bats in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Monday, Sept. 15, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Yankees 4, White Sox 2

At New York, Mariano Rivera moved into second place on the career saves list and New York put a small crimp in Chicago's postseason plans.

Beginning its final week at Yankee Stadium—barring an incredible playoff surge—New York got a two-run homer from Xavier Nady in the second inning and a tiebreaking double by pinch-hitter Wilson Betemit in the seventh.

The White Sox, who still lead the AL Central by 1 1/2 games over Minnesota, wasted six strong innings by Mark Buehrle and DeWayne Wise's two-run shot off Alfredo Aceves.

Joba Chamberlain struck out two in a scoreless eighth after Phil Coke (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh to win his first major league decision. Ehren Wassermann (1-2) took the loss.

Indians 3, Twins 1

At Cleveland, Scott Lewis pitched six shutout innings in his second career start and Cleveland beat Minnesota.

Lewis (2-0) has yet to allow a run in 14 innings since being called up from the minors Sept. 7. The left-hander allowed three hits and two walks.

Minnesota remained 1 1/2 games behind the Chicago White Sox and will play eight of its final 12 games in the division, where they are 39-25.

Kelly Shoppach hit his 21st homer in the fourth inning off Kevin Slowey (12-10) to put Cleveland ahead 1-0. Grady Sizemore singled with one out in the fifth and scored on a two-out homer by Choo Shin-Soo to make it 3-0.

Jensen Lewis, the fourth pitcher used by Indians manager Eric Wedge, allowed Joe Mauer's ninth homer with one out in the ninth, but got his ninth save in 10 chances.

Royals 3, Mariners 0

At Kansas City, Missouri, Kyle Davies matched a career high with eight strikeouts in eight innings and combined with closer Joakim Soria on a four-hitter, lifting Kansas City over struggling Seattle.

Davies (7-7) didn't allow a hit until Jose Lopez lined a high fastball into right for a single leading off the fifth, and had Seattle swinging through offspeed pitches, striking out four of five batters in the second and third innings.

Soria worked a perfect ninth for his 38th save in 41 chances, giving the Royals their fourth straight victory.

Seattle starter Carlos Silva (4-15) allowing two runs and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Rangers 11, Tigers 8

At Arlington, Texas, rookie Taylor Teagarden had his first career grand slam and a career-high five RBIs, Michael Young hit a tiebreaking single and Texas handed Detroit its fifth straight loss.

Detroit carried an 8-7 lead into the eighth, but Texas took the lead against Kyle Farnsworth (2-3) on Teagarden's RBI double and Young's go-ahead single.

Marlon Byrd's two-run triple later in the eighth extended Texas' advantage to 11-8.

Francisco (3-5) got the final out in the eighth, then worked the ninth for the decision.

Gary Sheffield hit his 497th career homer for Detroit.

Cubs 6, Astros 1

At Milwaukee, Ted Lilly came close to following Carlos Zambrano's no-hitter with his own as the Chicago Cubs beat the Houston Astros to sweep a two-game series moved from Houston by Hurricane Ike.

On Sunday, Zambrano pitched the Cubs' first no-hitter since 1972, leading Chicago to a 5-0 win. And until the seventh, Lilly appeared headed to a repeat. Then Mark Loretta hit a single.

Lilly (15-9) was given a standing ovation by the crowd of 15,158. He allowed the one hit in seven innings, struck out nine and walked one.

Aramis Ramirez's first-inning sacrifice fly and Jim Edmonds' homer off Brian Moehler (11-7) in the fifth built a 2-0 lead, and Derrek Lee and Geovany Soto hit two-run homers in the sixth.

Hard-charging Houston had won 14 of 15 coming into the series, but the Cubs left the Astros 2 1/2 games behind Milwaukee and Philadelphia, which share the National League wild-card lead.

Dodgers 8, Pirates 2

At Pittsburgh, Hiroki Kuroda allowed three hits over seven shutout innings for his first road win in more than two months and Manny Ramirez had three more hits, leading surging Los Angeles past Pittsburgh.

With Juan Pierre homering for the first time in nearly two years, the Dodgers rebounded from a 1-0, 10-inning loss at Colorado on Sunday for their 13th victory in 15 games—a surge that has given them a five-game lead in the NL West over Arizona.

The Pirates swept three games from St. Louis over the weekend, but did nothing against Kuroda, who hadn't won in six road starts since beating Houston 4-1 on July 2. Kuroda (9-10) permitted one runner to reach third and yielded only one hit, Nyjer Morgan's double in the sixth, after the first.

Nationals 7, Mets 2

At Washington, John Lannan limited New York to one hit over seven innings, Anderson Hernandez delivered a two-run single off a tiring Pedro Martinez, and the Nationals beat the fading-again Mets.

The Mets' lead over idle Philadelphia in the NL East fell to a half-game; New York held a 3 1/2-game cushion as recently as Wednesday. The Mets have 13 games left, Philadelphia has 12.

Last season, the Mets led the Phillies by seven games with only 17 to play before a historic collapse ceded the division title and kept New York out of the playoffs altogether.

Trailing 7-1 Monday, the Mets threatened to make things interesting once Lannan (9-13) left the game. The rookie left-hander gave up a double in the third to Brian Schneider, who wound up scoring on Jose Reyes' RBI groundout—and that was it.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 1

At Phoenix, Adam Dunn homered with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning to lead Arizona past San Francisco.

Justin Upton added his 13th home run for the Diamondbacks, who won for just the second time in 10 games to remain 4 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West.

Chris Young led off the eighth with a single to left off Giants starter Brad Hennessey (1-2). The right-hander retired the next two hitters before Dunn hit his first pitch into the second row of the right-field stands.

It was his 37th homer overall and fifth since coming to the Diamondbacks on Aug. 11.

Padres 11, Rockies 5

At Denver, Adrian Gonzalez homered and drove in four runs, Wade LeBlanc earned his first career win and San Diego beat Colorado.

Brian Giles had three hits and rookie Matt Antonelli hit his first career home run for the Padres, who had seven doubles in their 18-hit attack. Drew Macias also homered for the Padres, who had lost five of their last six games.

Troy Tulowitzki hit a grand slam in the fourth inning, and Chris Iannetta also homered for the Rockies, who have lost eight of their last nine.

LeBlanc (1-1), making his third career start, allowed four runs and seven hits with six strikeouts in six innings.

Brewers fire manager Yost in midst of playoff race

MILWAUKEE (AP)—In an unprecedented move, the Milwaukee Brewers fired manager Ned Yost on Monday, hoping to pull out of another late-season slump that has jeopardized the team's chance of making the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

Third-base coach Dale Sveum will take over as interim manager for the remainder of the season. The Brewers have lost seven of eight and fallen into a tie with Philadelphia for the NL wild-card lead.

It marked the first time in major league history—except the strike-split 1981 season—that a manager was fired in August or later with his team in playoff position, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

At 83-67, the Brewers have just 12 games to rebound.

Milwaukee came into this month with a 5 1/2-game lead in the wild card, but since has lost 11 of 14—including a four-game sweep completed by the Phillies over the weekend.

"(Yost) didn't have all the answers for what is going on the last two weeks and I'm not sure I have all the answers," general manager Doug Melvin said during a news conference at a hotel in Chicago. "I'm not sure this is the right one, either."

Melvin met with principal owner principal owner Mark Attanasio Monday morning and the decision to fire Yost was made. Melvin acknowledged it was an unprecedented move but one that "shows we're serious about winning."

"We just felt a managerial change at least gives us a chance to see if we can turn it around," he added.

The Brewers were idle Monday, and was scheduled to begin a three-game series with the Central-leading Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field on Tuesday.

Yost did not immediately return a message left on his cell phone by The Associated Press.

Members of NL Central rivals Chicago and Houston, who played another neutral-site game in Milwaukee on Monday after Hurricane Ike made it too difficult to play their scheduled series in Houston over the weekend, expressed surprise at the move.

"That was a shocker," Astros owner Drayton McLane said. "Has a team ever done that at this point of the season this close to the playoffs?"

During the rejiggered 1981 season, the Montreal Expos fired future Hall of Fame manager Dick Williams in early September. The Expos went 16-11 under Jim Fanning to win the second-half title and make the playoffs.

In 1983, Philadelphia fired Pat Corrales in early July when it was in first place with a 43-42 record. Under Paul Owens, the Phillies reached the World Series.

In 1982, the Brewers fired manager Buck Rodgers after a 23-24 start. Popular Harvey Kuenn took over and his "Harvey's Wallbangers" went to the World Series.

"It was a big surprise to me," said Astros infielder Mark Loretta, formerly of the Brewers. "It makes you wonder who really made that decision."

Cubs manager Lou Piniella said Yost was a "good man."

"I don't know the situation here with the Brewers, but I've got a lot of respect for Ned and it's not easy when you get fired," Piniella said. "But I hope everything goes well for him. He's a good baseball man and he'll be back."

Bench coach Ted Simmons, once considered a potential successor should Yost be fired, has been reassigned to an "advisory role," making his long-term status with the team unclear.

Sveum immediately hired Brewers' Hall of Famer Robin Yount, his former teammate, to be his bench coach and said Garth Iorg will coach third base.

"Something obviously went wrong the last two weeks. We're just trying to send a shock wave through this team and get them going for 12 days and through the playoffs," Sveum said, adding he's not sure how the players will react. He will address them before Tuesday night's game.

James Yap is 2007-08 scoring champ

Taulava, Helterbrand keep rebounding, assists titles

MANILA, Philippines—Purefoods' James Yap emerged as the scoring champ, Coca-Cola's Asi Taulava the rebounding king and Ginebra's Jayjay Helterbrand the sultan of assists in the 2007-08 PBA season.

Sta. Lucia's Ryan Reyes, Air21's Arwind Santos, Alaska's Sonny Thoss, Red Bull's Mike Hrabak and Coca-Cola's Mark Macapagal also topped different statistical departments in the exciting and dramatic season highlighted by the title conquests of the Sta. Lucia Realtors and the Barangay Ginebra Kings.

The stats races turned out to be as close as the battles for both the Philippine Cup and the Fiesta Conference.

Yap ended Mark Caguioa's two-year reign as scoring champion as the 2006 MVP winner averaged 21.32 points a game to edge out two-time MVP awardee Willie Miller, who normed 20.67 an outing.

Rounding out the top 10 scorers were Caguioa (19.82), Kelly Williams (18.23), Jayjay Helterbrand (18.11), Cyrus Baguio (18.02), Macmac Cardona (16.89), Santos (16.33), Danny Seigle (15.39) and Gary David (15.33).

Yap became only the second Purefoods player to top the scoring ladder after Alvin Patrimonio, who was No. 1 in 1992, 1993 and 1998. The former UE Warrior continued to improve his numbers after averaging only 12.5 points in his rookie year, 17.6 the following season and 19.7 in his junior season as a pro.

Taulava and Helterbrand retained their crowns as rebounding and assists kings with the Coca-Cola behemoth averaging 12.51 boards a game and the Ginebra playmaker dishing off 6.5 feeds per contest.

Williams (10.73), Nic Belasco (10.35), Santos (9.56) and Kerby Raymundo (9.2) were the runners-up to Taulava for rebounding honors while Jimmy Alapag (5.9), Wynne Arboleda (4.8), Alex Cabagnot (4.5) and L.A. Tenorio (4.5) ranked next to Helterbrand in assists.

Reyes was No. 1 in steals, Santos in blocks, Thoss in overall field-goal shooting percentage, Hrabak in three-point accuracy and Macapagal in charities

Reyes, the Rookie of the Year awardee, came through with 2.1 steals a game, besting Arboleda, two-time champion in this department relegated to second this time with 1.6 an outing.

Topex Robinson and Dondon Hontiveros came in tied at third with 1.3 per game, with Baguio emerging fifth with 1.2 per contest.

Santos reigned supreme in blocks with an average of 1.45 as against the 1.43 of Ali Peek, 1.29 of Hrabak, 1.13 of Marlou Aquino and 1.03 of Marc Pingris.

Hrabak was the best in three-point shooting, hitting at a 42.92 percent clip but Thoss was No. 1 in overall field-goal shooting accuracy, converting 53.87 percent of his shots.

Tops in free throw shooting were Macapagal (82.42 percent), Ronjay Buenafe (81.58), Lordy Tugade (81.33), David (81.25) and Yap (81.16). ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

San Miguel skyline up with Pennisi in tow

MANILA, Philippines—San Miguel has further strengthened its lineup with its acquisition Thursday of Mick Pennisi from Red Bull in exchange for the Beermen's first round pick in the 2010 PBA Rookie Draft.

The trade came on the heels of a report from the Kerlan Jobe Clinic of world renowned physician Steve Lombardo in Los Angeles, California, declaring Samigue Eman fit, except for bruised bones.

Only Danny Ildefonso will be out at least for the next three months since the two-time MVP has undergone operation on both knees in the same LA clinic.

But San Miguel has pulled recruiting coups to fill in the void.

The Beermen also beefed up their backcourt in enlisting Bonbon Custodio. The former UE Warrior has shown up in the SMB practice after completing his stint in Liga Pilipinas.

Gone from the old lineup is Chester Tolomia.

"We're happy with the arrival of Mick. He'll fill in our immediate need and, at the same time, he can surely help us develop our young players," said Tanquingcen.

"Coaches can only say so much. It's a big plus that you have veteran players in the team showing how things are done to younger players. That's what Jonas Villanueva is getting from Olsen Racela," Tanquingcen added.

Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, meanwhile, said they will certainly miss Pennisi but the team would still be there aspiring to keep their long streak of constant finishes in the Final Four.

"Even with the departure of Mick, the semifinal round will be our objective. If we make it there, everything is already a bonus for us," said Guiao, setting a modest goal with a lineup devoid of superstars. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

PTI

From Page 28

as it was held to 11 third quarter points, while PTI started pulling away, getting contributions from every player it fielded in the game.

At the end of the third canto, PTI was way ahead, 73-48, as DCCA was limited two three triples and a pair of free throws at the beginning of the second half.

DCCA picked up its scoring in the fourth period, leaning on its 3-point shooting. But PTI's 25-point lead at the start of the fourth canto was too much for DCCA which ran out of time catching up.

Even Connie Camacho's three treys in the fourth quarter could not save DCCA from dropping to the losers' bracket, putting the team in a must-win situation against Corrections.

Van Buren, who usually has a field day from downtown, was held to 10 points, four in the fourth canto, as he was pushed out of his comfort zone. He made only one triple against PTI, which had a couple of tall guys challenging Van Buren's long shot attempts.

Besides Fitial, three other PTI players scored in double figures with Sanciangco adding 21 and Elmer Esdrelon and Mendoza chipping in 16 and 12 markers, respectively.

Joey Dela Cruz paced DCCA with 17 points, while Peter Camacho had 14, but scored only a triple in the fourth quarter.

Elias Rangamar, the hero in DCCA's 83-82 win over Bank of Guam, also finished with 14 points, but hardly made attempts to the basket in the second and third quarters.

The winner of the DCCA-Corrections tiff will face the victor of the Autonomous-Tinian tiff, which was played last night, but results were unavailable at press time.

Winners of the Tinian-Autonomous and DCCA-Corrections games will then meet the loser of NMC-PTI match for the last finals berth.

NMC has a slight edge over PTI in their semis match tonight, as the former defeated the latter in the regular season, 89-82.

PTI 97 – Fitial 25, Sanciangco 21, Esdrelon 16, Mendoza 12, Yamada 8, Fernandez 5, De Leon 2, Watanabe 2, Berline 2.

DCCA 78 – Dela Cruz 17, P. Camacho 14, Rangamar 14, Van Buren 10, C. Camacho 9, Benavente 8, Rogolofoi 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-17, 44-37, 73-48, 97-78.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gabriel White.

SALAS

From Page 28

jor league scouts in attendance last year.

The team said it considers itself extremely fortunate to be one of 48 teams that come from as far as Hawaii to Canada that was invited and as the only team in Idaho, to participate in such an event.

The state with the most number of teams will be California with, 10 while Arizona has nine.

Handling the team are two experienced coaches, Aaron Sutton, assistant coach at Treasure Valley Community College; and Jeff Reifman, assistant Coach at Boise High School and former participant of the Fall Classic.

This marks the 10th consecutive year that Team Idaho is competing in the event.

Salas, whose father is former Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Joe, was a two-time World Series participant before moving to Idaho last year. He continued to play baseball in the mainland and hooked up with Boise Gems, seeing action in two tournaments last season.

He and the Gems competed in the 2008 "AA" American Legion State Tournament, which ran from Aug. 1 to 5 at the Halliwell Park-Bill Derham Field in Pocatello, Idaho.

Salas emerged as the second best hitter of the Gems. He went 46-for-97 at bat for a batting average of .474. The 17-year-old Salas, who played for the Jets in the Saipan Junior League, had the most triples with six. He also made five doubles, one homer, and 22 bases on ball and had eight stolen bases.

He pitched for the Gems only once and was the winning pitcher. He pitched 9.1 innings, walked eight, struck out four, and gave up only six runs. Salas had a 4.62 ERA.

GCA

From Page 28

they are the defending champions, the Eagles will also try to keep their record (2-0) clean when they face CCA tomorrow.

The Eagles won their first two games against SIS-Green and Marianas Baptist Academy on Sept. 12, and 13, respectively.

GCA coach Mark Robles was happy with the wins but he's not yet fully satisfied with their performances.

He said they still need a lot of practice and they need good communication during the game.

OLOPAI

From Page 28

Sablan had a gross 1-over par 73.

Three golfers tied for third with identical net scores of 68. But the 21-handicapper Joe Wabol edged Tony Rogolofoi and Asterio Tawanpiy via scorecard playoff on the front nine.

Wabol had a net 33.5 after the first nine holes, as he finished with a 44 on the front and 45 on the back for a gross 89.

Rogolifoi dropped to fourth with his net 34. The 16-handicapper shot a 42 on both nines for a gross 84. February Ace Tawanpiy, who has a six handicap, tallied a net 35 after the first nine holes. He nailed a 41 on the front nines and played better on the back with a 38.

In sixth place was Ed Tenorio with a net 69, followed by Jess I. Wabol (71), Olopai (71), Fuchulu Tigilau (72), Dwaine Stephens (73), Sonny Flores (75), Tom Tebuteb (75), and Jordan Kossam (78).

Jess Wabol won the closest to the pin contest in hole No. 6, while Flores prevailed in hole No. 15.

Meanwhile, Jess Wabol is reminding monthly Ace winners to meet the required number of tournaments before they are allowed to join the club championship in December.

Monthly Ace winners must participate in at least six qualifying tournaments or RGA-sanctioned events to gain entry to the season-ending RGA Cup.

Wabol is also reminding members to prepare for the Family Fun Day tournament on Dec. 13.

For more information on RGA tournaments, contact Wabol at 233-3673.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	88	60	.595	–
Boston	89	61	.593	–
New York	80	70	.533	9
Toronto	80	70	.533	9
Baltimore	66	82	.446	22
Central Division				
Chicago	83	66	.557	–
Minnesota	82	68	.547	1 1/2
Cleveland	73	77	.487	10 1/2
Detroit	70	79	.470	13
Kansas City	66	84	.440	17 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	92	57	.617	–
Texas	74	77	.490	19
Oakland	69	80	.463	23
Seattle	57	92	.383	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	83	66	.557	–
Philadelphia	83	67	.553	1/2
Florida	77	72	.517	6
Atlanta	67	83	.447	16 1/2
Washington	57	93	.380	26 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	90	58	.608	–
Milwaukee	83	67	.553	8
Houston	80	69	.537	10 1/2
St. Louis	78	71	.523	12 1/2
Cincinnati	68	81	.456	22 1/2
Pittsburgh	63	87	.420	28
West Division				
Los Angeles	78	72	.520	–
Arizona	73	76	.490	4 1/2
San Francisco	68	82	.453	10
Colorado	68	83	.450	10 1/2
San Diego	58	93	.384	20 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 3, Minnesota 1
N.Y. Yankees 4, Chicago White Sox 2
Boston 13, Tampa Bay 5
Texas 11, Detroit 8
Kansas City 3, Seattle 0
Chicago Cubs 6, Houston 1
L.A. Dodgers 8, Pittsburgh 2
Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 2
San Diego 11, Colorado 5
Arizona 3, San Francisco 1

x-clinched division

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	2	0	0	1.000	36	20
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	54	26
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	30	33
Miami	0	2	0	.000	24	51
South						
Tennessee	2	0	0	1.000	41	17
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	31	44
Houston	0	1	0	.000	17	38
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	26	37
North						
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	48	23
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	17	41
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	16	38
West						
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	80	52
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	37	49
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	18	40
San Diego	0	2	0	.000	62	65

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	2	0	0	1.000	69	47
N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	57	20
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	75	44
Washington	1	1	0	.500	36	40
South						
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	46	41
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	48	49
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	44	33
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	43	45
North						
Green Bay	2	0	0	1.000	72	44
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	46	33
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	46	82
Minnesota	0	2	0	.000	34	42
West						
Arizona	2	0	0	1.000	54	23
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	46	53
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	40	67
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	16	79

Yesterday's Game

Dallas 41, Philadelphia 37
Baltimore at Houston, ppd., hurricane

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	5	0
San Antonio Sixers	3	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	3	1
G-Rollers I	2	1
Kontenders	2	2
G-Stars	2	2
Suns	1	3
C.K. Saints	0	4
G-Rollers II	0	5

Adachi tops CWGA September Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sachiko Adachi bested 23 other lady par busters to rule the CNMI Women's Golf Association September Ace of the Month Tournament Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point course.

Adachi shot a net 69 for a four-stroke win over second placer Eun Ae Chang, who had a net 73. Completing the Top 5 were Aya Matsumoto (75), Ukita Terue (76), and Noriko Togawa (76).

Winning this month's Ace was a significant improvement for Adachi after placing 11th and scoring a net 83 in the August tournament. The 24-handicaper Adachi fired a 46 and 47 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 93 in last weekend's tournament.

Chang, who has a 19 handicap based on the USGA handicapping system, scored a 47 on the front nine and improved her game on the back with a 45 for a gross 92.

Matsumoto, a 13-handicapper, made 44 on both nines for a gross 88, while the 21-handicapper Terue was also consistent at the Agingan Point-based course, shooting a 48 on both nines for a gross 96.

The two-handicapper Togawa recorded the lowest gross in the tournament with a six-over 78, as she tamed the COP course with a two-over par 38 on the front and four-over par 40 on the back.

Making it to the Top 10 were Yuko Togawa (76), Yi Su Jeong (77), Lou Kim (79), Doll Yamagishi (79), and Kimiko Abe (80).

Others who joined last weekend's tournament, but failed to enter the Top 10 were Ching Lin Wang (81), Shiori Onoue (83), Margaret Tenorio (91), Bennet Seman (84), Lorraine A. Babauta (86), Matilde Hocog (80), Kyung A Yang (84), Masayo Miyamoto (85), Terry Tudela (88), Young Mi Ham (93), and the club's newest member Xiao Ling Wang (95).

Jung A Kim and Sujie Guzman scored a net 73 and 78, respectively, but were ranked last as they failed to submit their scorecards.

CWGA is only on its second season after the club was organized in March 2007 to promote, encourage, and introduce women to golf.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Women's Golf Association held its September Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Suns rise to snap skid in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

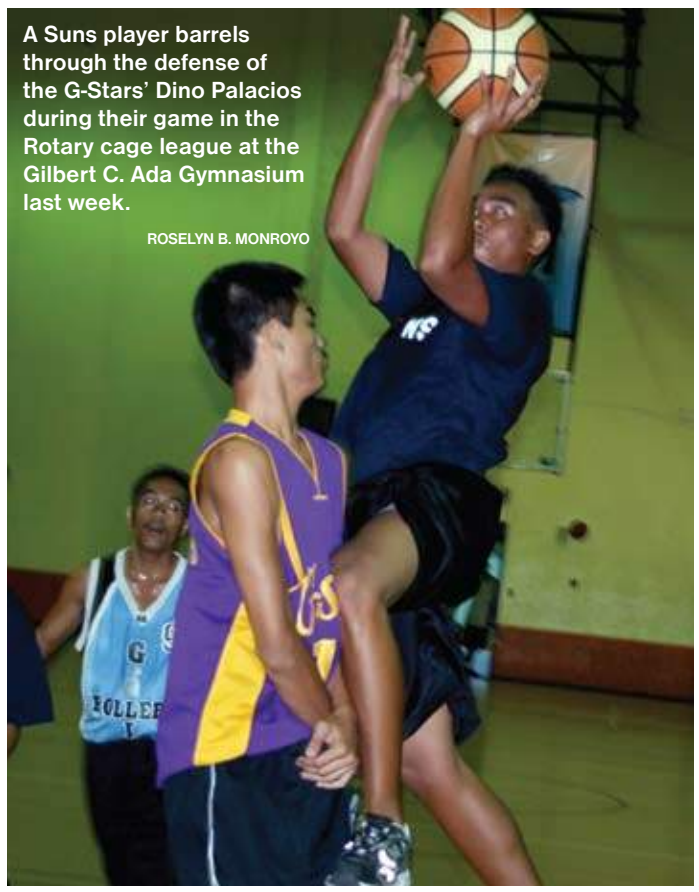
The Suns broke into the win column in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after outclassing the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 43-38, Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the Suns' first in four games, while the loss was the Saints' fourth in as many matches.

The Suns made up for their lackluster performance in the first three games with a good start against the Saints.

The Francis San Nicolas-coached squad fired 25 points in the first half and held the Saints to 10 markers to seize control of the game.

The Saints had only three players scoring in the first half with Zack Tudela nailing five, Ben Iglecias adding four, and Luizi Reyes making only a free throw.



A Suns player barrels through the defense of the G-Stars' Dino Palacios during their game in the Rotary cage league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Suns had a balanced offense in the first half, getting contributions from eight players.

Tudela, Iglecias, and Josh Lizama tried to bring the Saints back into the game in the second half, but fell short, while timely baskets from Josh Kiyoshi foiled Chalan Kanoa's repeated comeback bids.

Kiyoshi hit eight of his 13 points in the second half, and drew support from four other players who drilled at least one basket apiece to preserve the Suns' win.

The victory moved the Suns two notches up from the cellar, as they are now ranked seventh among the nine teams in the league.

The Saints are second to the last with their 0-4 record, just a loss behind cellar-dweller Roller II, which is winless in five games.

The Sonics are leading the league with a perfect 5-0 record, followed by fellow unbeaten team, the San Antonio Sixers, which hold a 3-0 slate.

Defending champions CNMI Junior Nationals are currently in third place with a 3-1 record, Rollers I is in fourth with a 2-1 mark, while the Kontenders and G-Stars are tied four fifth with similar 2-2 records.

The G-Stars will go for their third win tonight when they duel the Rollers II.

The Sixers played the Kontenders last night with the former aiming to keep their record clean, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Suns 43 – Kiyoshi 13, Yamada 8, Maratita 6, Babauta 4, Calvo 3, Lisua 3, Salas 2.

Saints 39 – Tudela 14, B. Iglecias 9, Lizama 7, Manas 3, Reyes 1.

Scoring by halves: 25-10, 43-38.

Referees: Gabriel White and Arnold Mesa.

Team representatives for Inter-Govt Softball to meet Sept. 23

The Division of Sports and Recreation announced yesterday that there would be a meeting on Sept. 23 of representatives from the different teams that will play in the upcoming Inter-Government Softball League.

The event is tentatively scheduled on the first week of October but the exact date will be known and finalized during the meeting, which will be at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room starting a 9:30am.

A total of 19 teams joined the previous tournament last April.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs won both the men's and women's division titles of last season's competition.

DCCA's men's squad, which went undefeated in the regular season (18-0), fashioned out a punishing 43-11 victory against Aguaguat, while its women's team swept Northern Marianas College-Proa in their three-game series, 18-14, and 13-10, on April 11.

Aguaguat was the runner-up in the pennant race and placed second to DCCA in the championship. PSS placed third in the finals after losing to Aguaguat in the semifinals. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The curtains for the 2008 Inter-Government Softball League will be raised soon as organizers have set a meeting on Sept. 23.

SAPTember U18 volleyball deadline today

Interested teams for the SAPTember 18-and 14-and-under Youth Volleyball Tournament have until today, Sept. 17, to register and submit their roster of players.

Becky Covarrubias, CNMI Tobacco Quit Line Coordinator of the Community Guidance Center-Prevention Office, said co-ed teams are allowed. She added that there would be a meeting of coaches at the Gilbert Ada Gymnasium today.

The tournament is part of the observance of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Month.

The actual two-day competition will be from Sept. 20 to 21, 8am to 6pm at the Oleai Sports Complex venue.

There are four divisions—the boys' 18-and-under and 14-and-under and the girls' 18-and-under and 14-and-under.

Ground rules stated that registration would not be complete until the team has submitted a competed registration form for each team and a complete waiver form for each player.

For more details about the SAPTember 18- and 14-and-under Youth Volleyball Tournament, contact Covarrubias at 323-7848 or fax 323-6587 or email alesia_mexi@hotmail.com.

The tournament is geared toward a healthier and drug-free CNMI. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Adachi tops CWGA September Ace

Sachiko Adachi bested 23 other lady par busters to rule the CNMI Women's Golf Association September Ace of the Month Tournament Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point course.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cowboys outlast Eagles 41-37 in wild, wacky game

Terrell Owens caught the long pass in stride, cruised into the end zone and began showing off.

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PTI routs DCCA to gain semis slot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

PTI advanced to the winners bracket semi-finals of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League after trouncing the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, 97-78, Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PTI will face Northern Marianas College in the second game tonight for the first finals ticket. DCCA will collide with the Department of Corrections in the first match with the loser kissing its finals bid goodbye.

Kelvin Fitial topscored for PTI with 25 points, but it was Ryan Sanciangco and Edsel Mendoza who started things out for the host team.

Sanciangco, who missed most of PTI's games in the regular season before making himself available for the important matches in the playoffs, scored his team's first three points and went on to finish with nine markers in the first canto.

Mendoza added six, as he and Sanciangco put PTI on top at the end of the first quarter, 26-17.

Taj Van Buren, Joey Dela Cruz, and Peter Camacho tried to keep PTI within striking distance in the second period and succeeded when they cut the lead to six at halftime, 37-44.

But that was the closest that DCCA could get,

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PTI's Ryan Sanciangco drives to the baseline in one of his few games in the regular season of the PTI caging. Sanciangco played in PTI's playoff game against DCCA and scored 21 points.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Salas to play for Idaho in Arizona Senior Fall Classic

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

CNMI pride Jonathan P. Salas will be part of Team Idaho that will compete in the Arizona Senior Fall Classic Baseball Tournament to be held on Oct. 16-19.

Venue for the games will be at the Peoria Sports Complex in Phoenix.

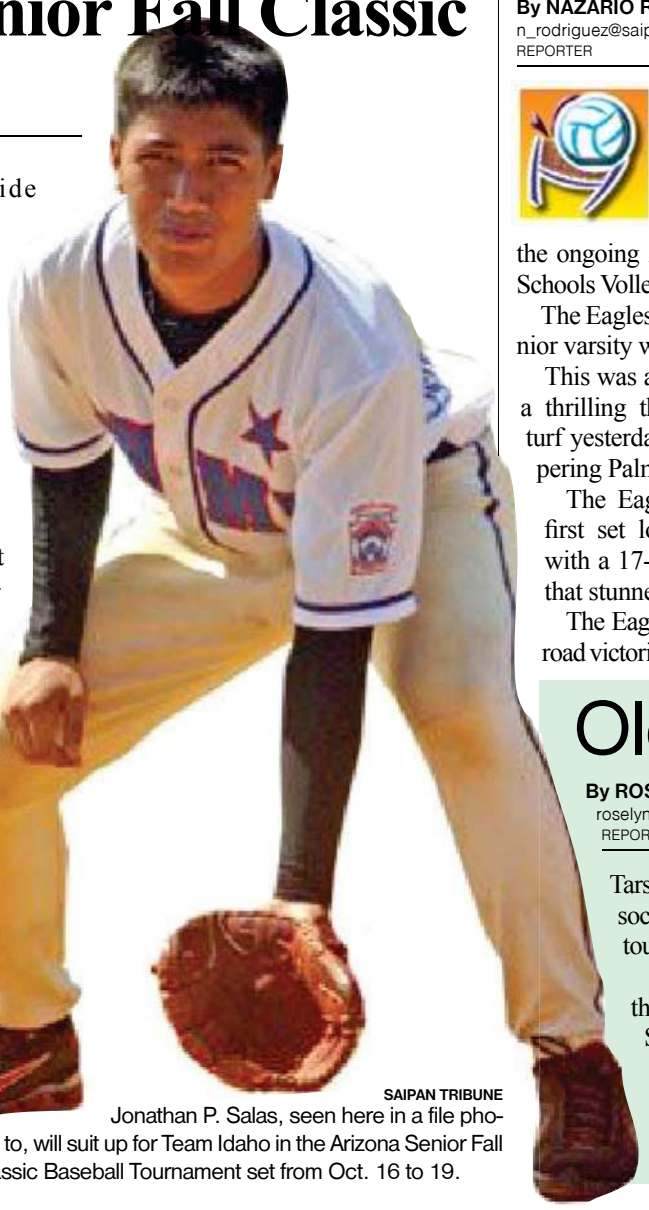
It would be the first time that the 11-year-old senior at Timberline High School in Boise, Idaho will play in the annual tournament.

The Fall Classic is one of the most highly anticipated high school events for both professional and college scouts.

Salas' mother, Cathy, who relayed the good news to the *Saipan Tribune*, said his son is ready to compete.

Baseball Idaho Inc., which manages Team Idaho, said there were over 250 college and ma-

See SALAS on Page 26



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Jonathan P. Salas, seen here in a file photo, will suit up for Team Idaho in the Arizona Senior Fall Classic Baseball Tournament set from Oct. 16 to 19.

GCA Eagles soar high in HS volleyball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy's junior varsity and high school teams remained undefeated after three playing dates in the ongoing 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League.

The Eagles are soaring high in the junior varsity with 3-0 win-loss records.

This was after the Eagles pulled out a thrilling three-set victory at home turf yesterday over the visiting Whispering Palms School.

The Eagles clawed back from a first set loss before coming away with a 17-25, 25-11, 16-14 triumph that stunned WPS.

The Eagles also won their first two road victories over Saipan Community School on Sept. 9 and Saipan International School-Green on Sept. 11.

The Eagles will try to keep their momentum going when they visit Calvary Christian Academy tomorrow at 3:30pm.

In the high school division where

See GCA on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Grace Christian Academy and Whispering Palms School players exchange high fives after their 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League junior varsity game yesterday at GCA.

Olopai keeps RGA September Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tars Olopai secured the Refaluwasch Golf Association September Ace crown after Sunday's tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Olopai shot a net 66 in the qualifier early this month to set the score to beat for the September Ace plum. He also competed in the monthly tournament and hit a net 71.

Manny Mangarero drilled a net 66 in last weekend's Ace of the Month, only tying Olopai's score.

RGA rules state that a golfer must surpass the top scorer for the qualifier to gain the monthly plum.

Actually, even if Mangarero had beaten Olopai's score, the latter still gets to keep the September Ace, as the former had already won the July title.

RGA rules bar repeat monthly winners.

The 12-handicapper Mangarero fired a 41 and 37 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 78 to beat 12 other RGA members in the qualifier.

Nick Sablan recorded the second-best net score with 67, after his consistent performance on the 18-hole course, posting an even 36 on the front and 1-over par 37 on the back.

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